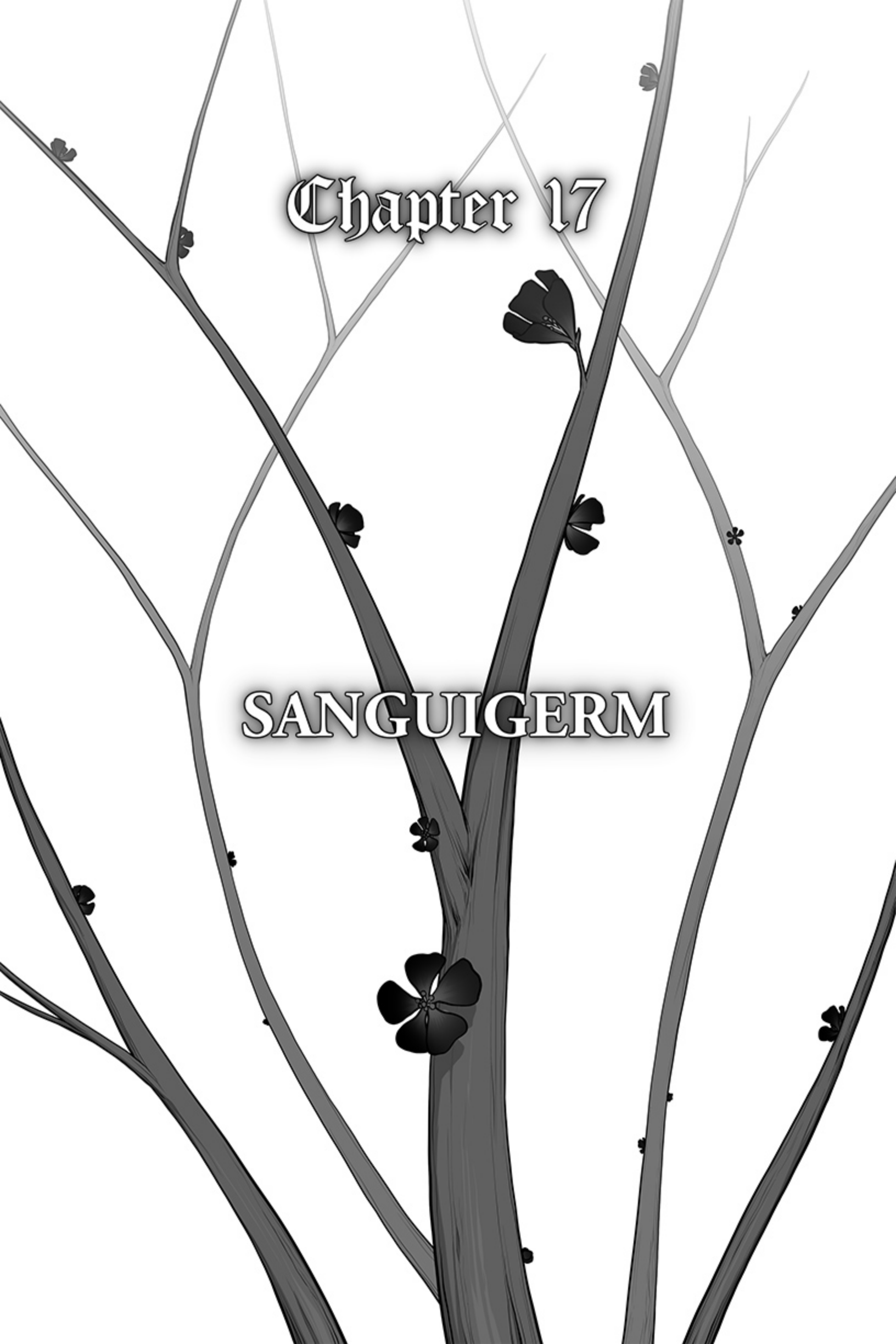
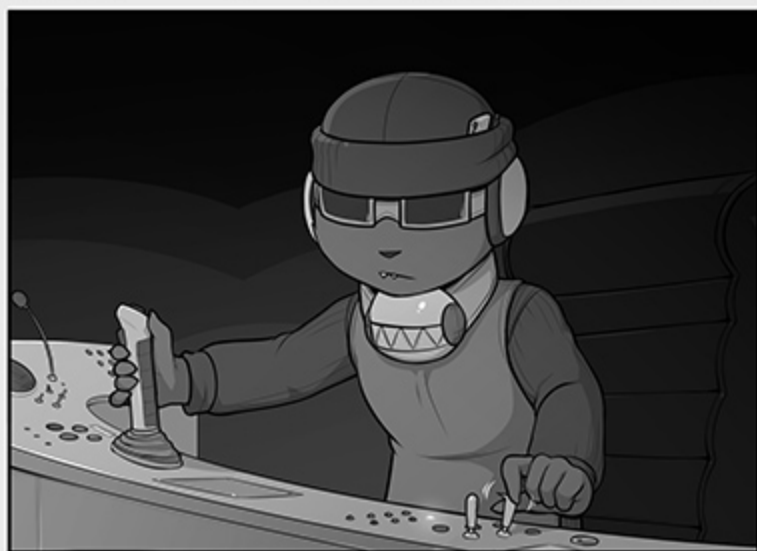
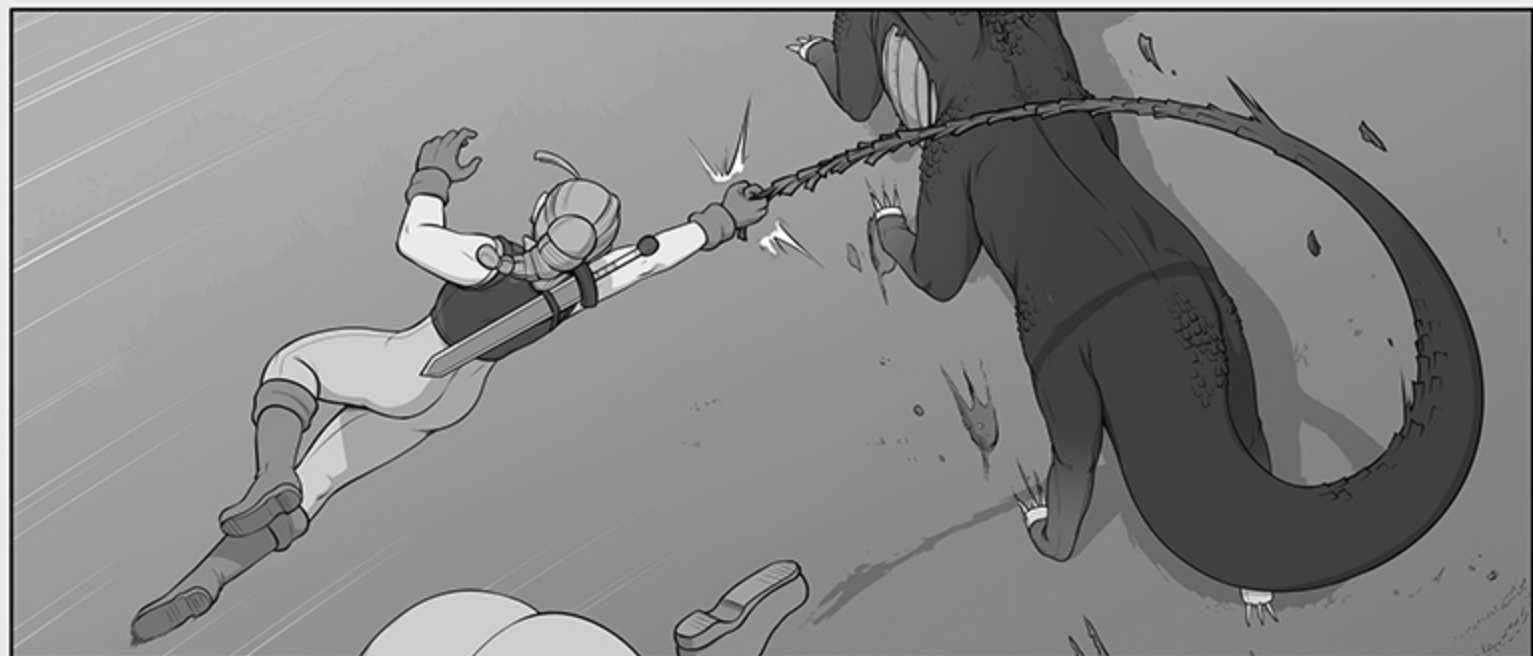


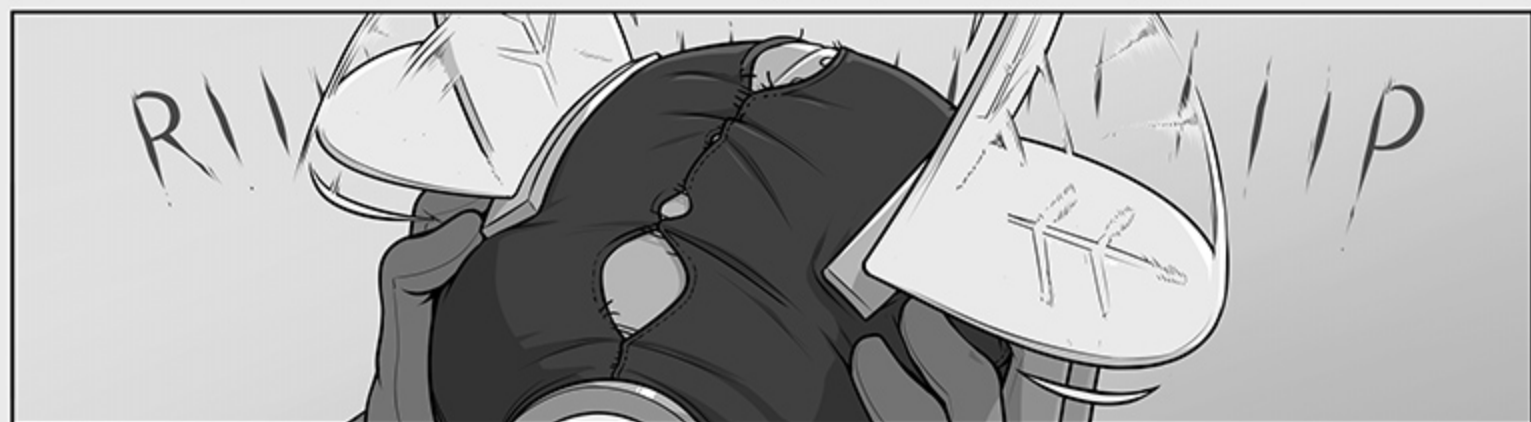
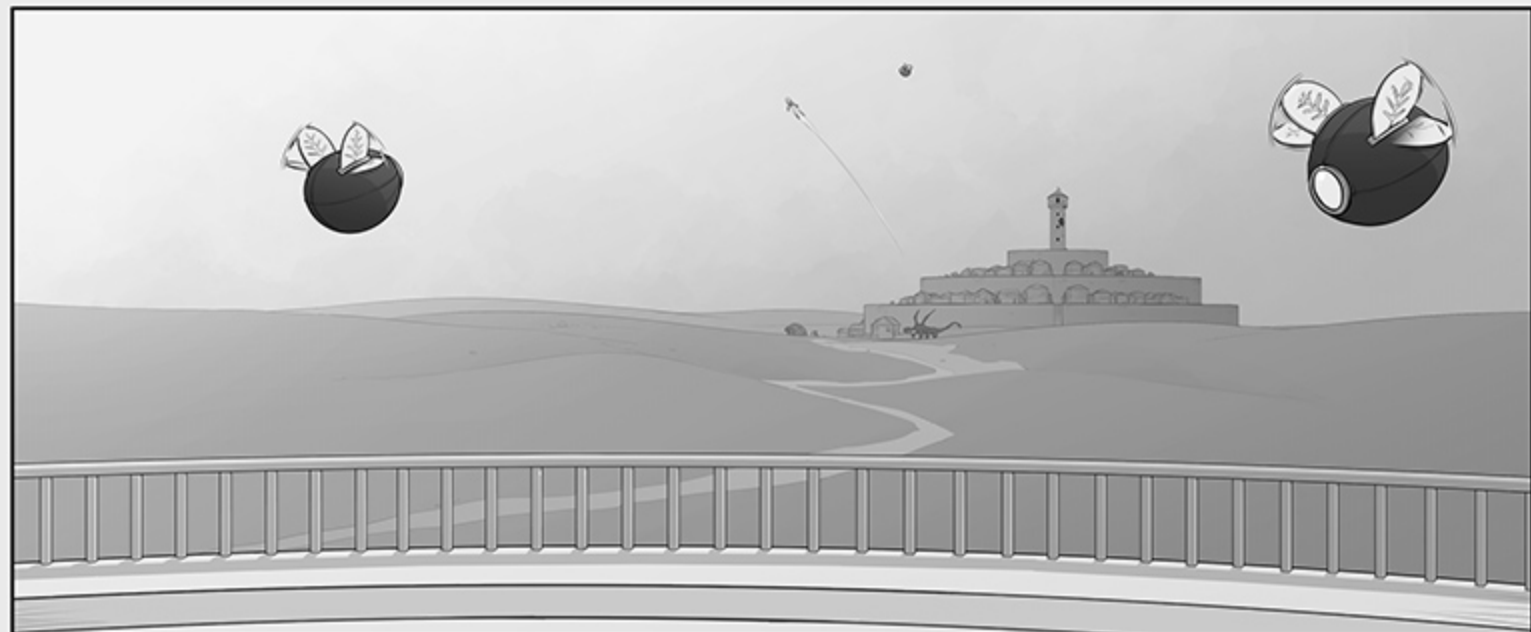
The background of the page is a stylized illustration of a tree. It features several dark grey, slightly textured branches that spread out across the frame. Small, black, five-petaled flowers are scattered along these branches, some in full bloom and others as buds. The overall style is minimalist and elegant.

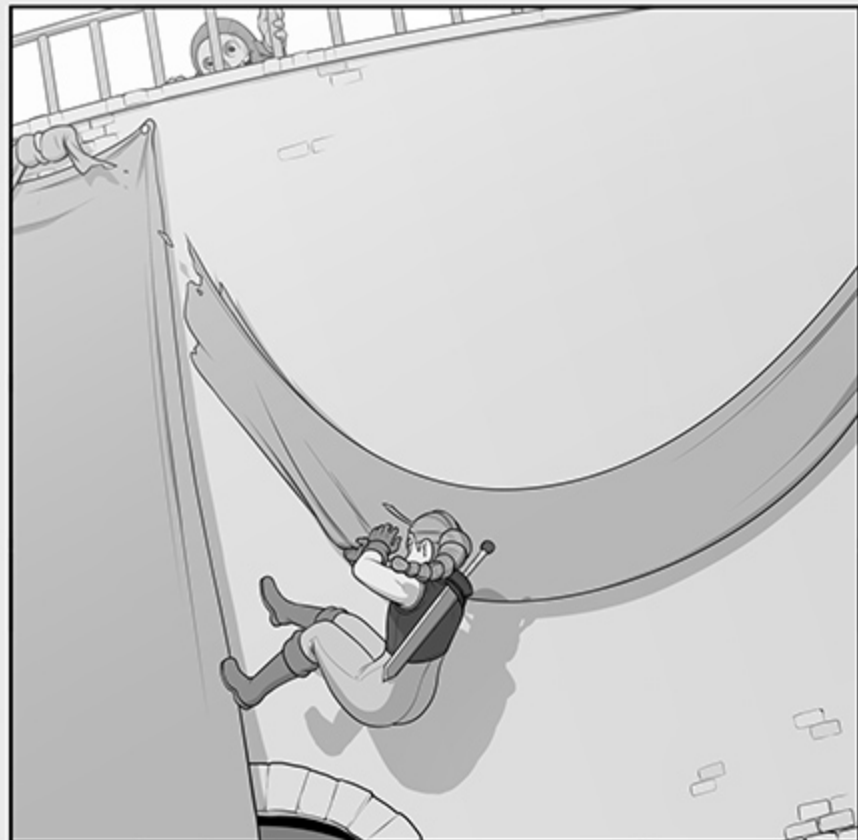
Chapter 17

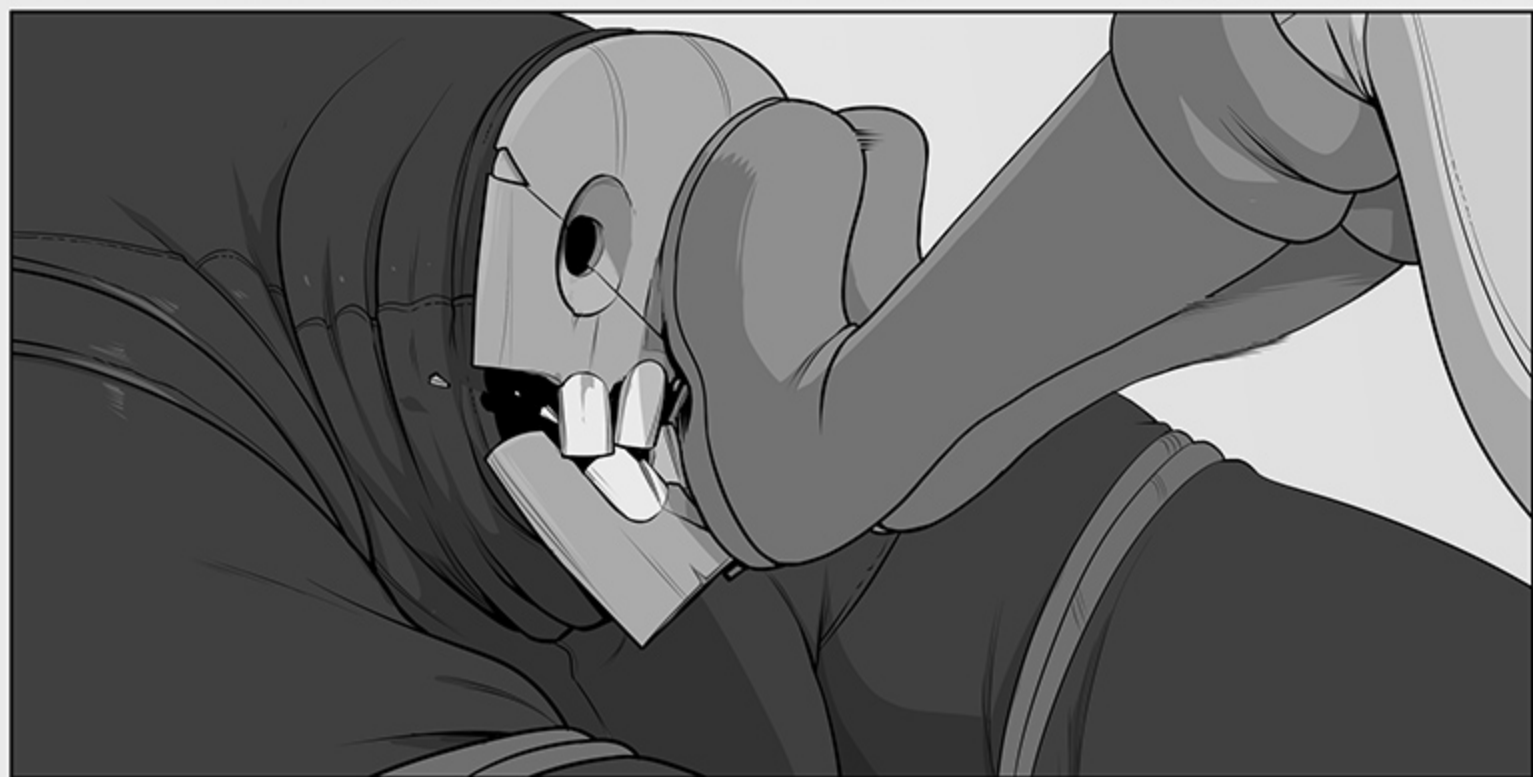
SANGUIGERM













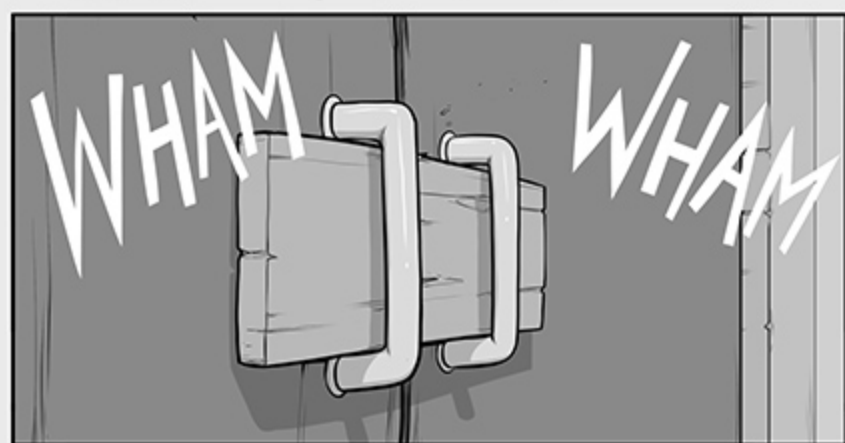


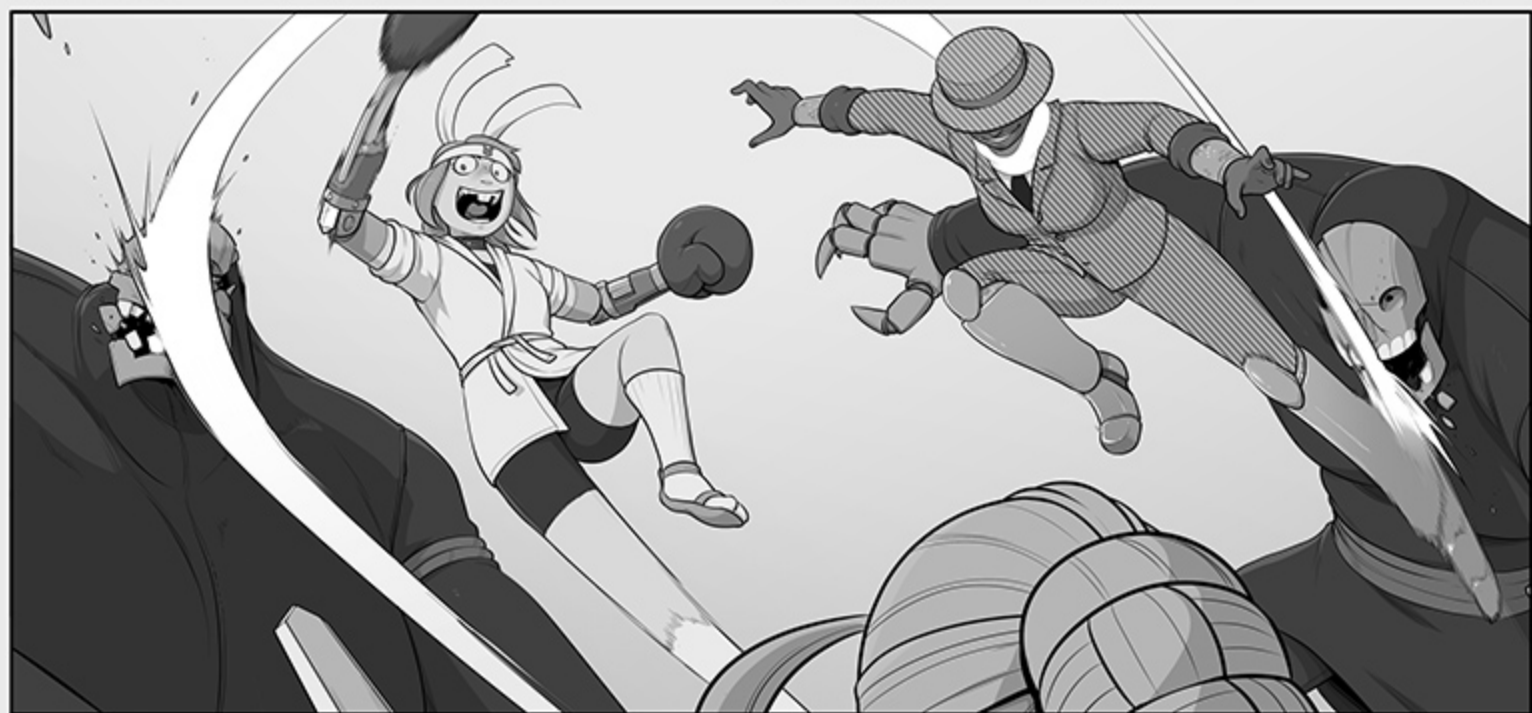
10 MINUTES UNTIL BACKUP ARRIVES

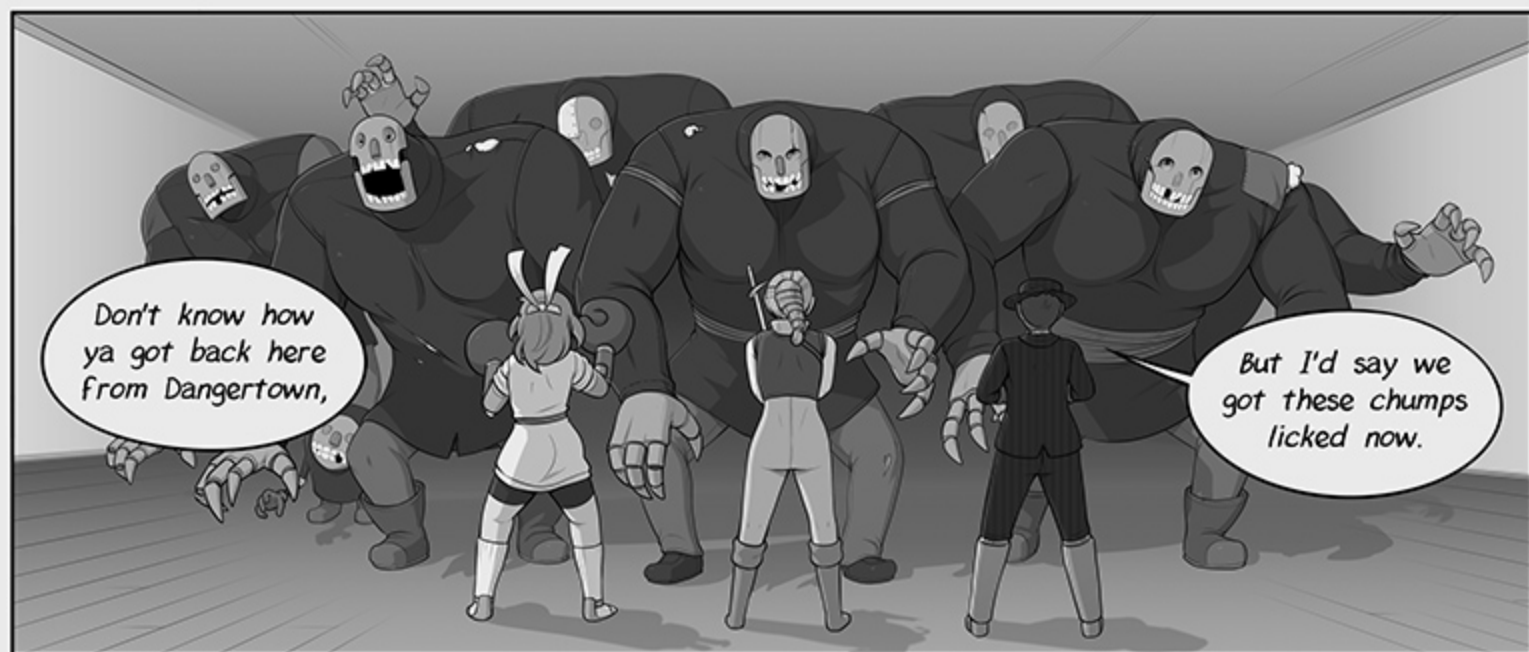






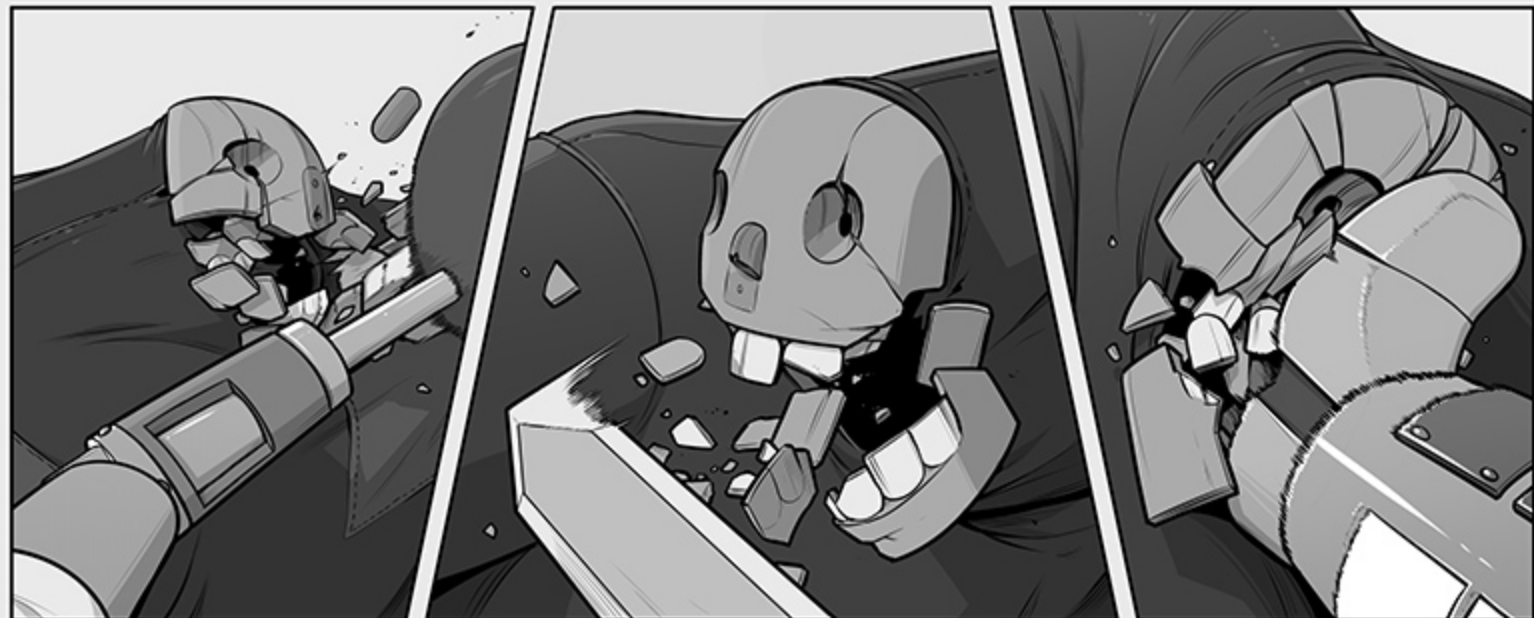


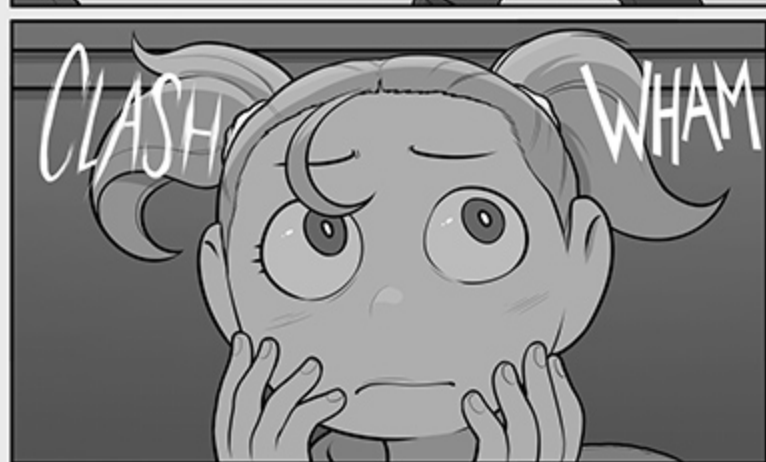










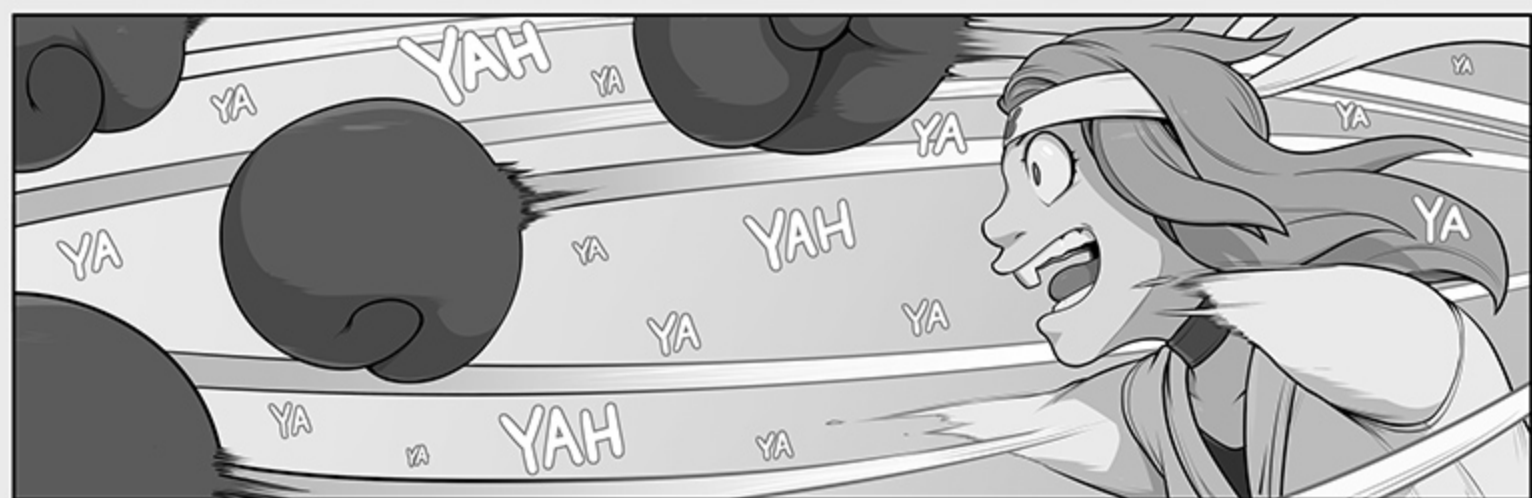


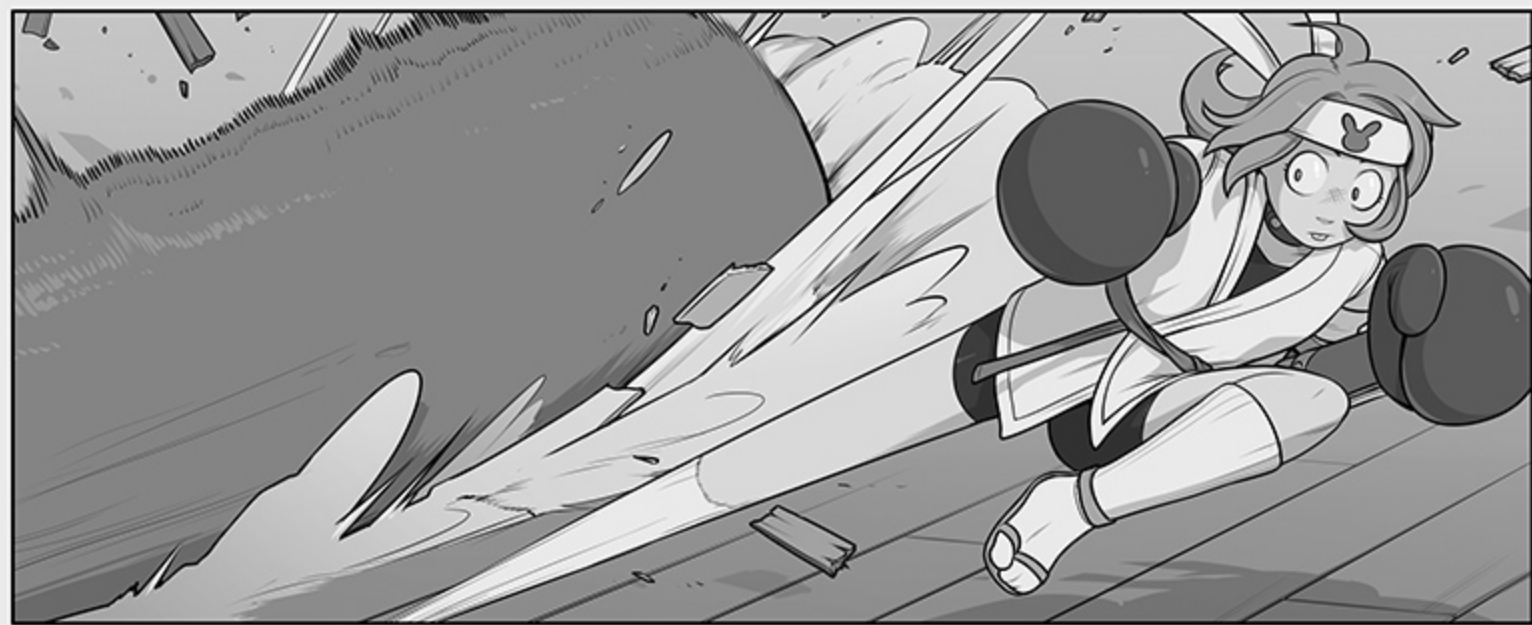
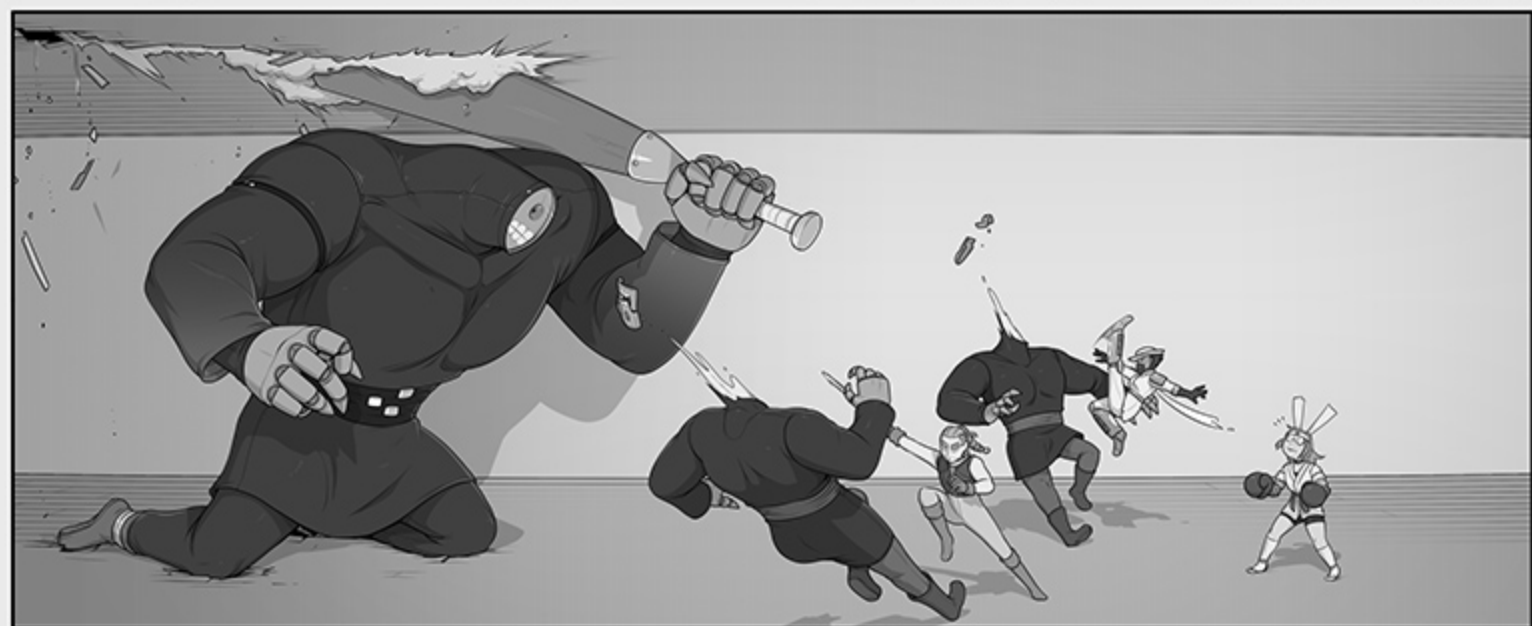


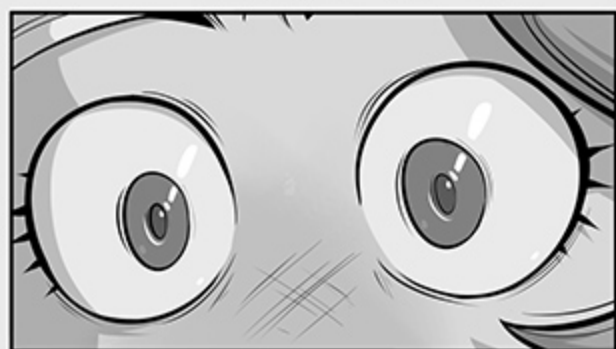
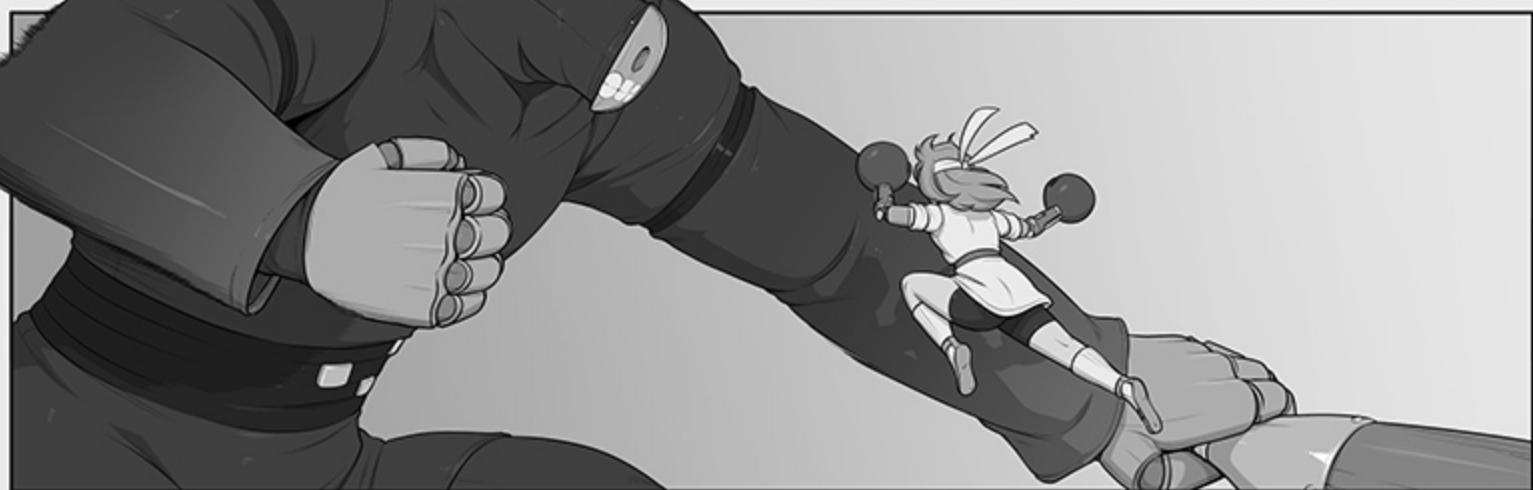


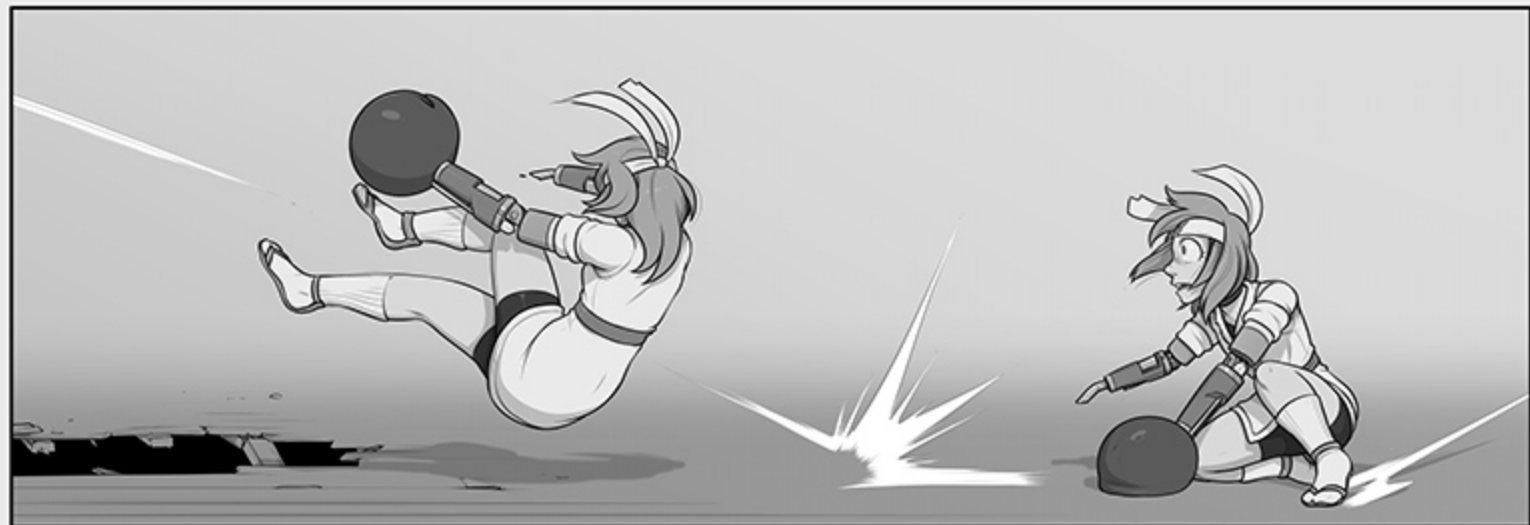


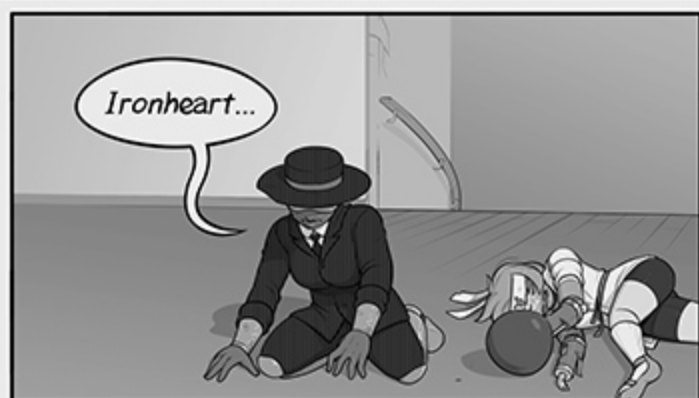


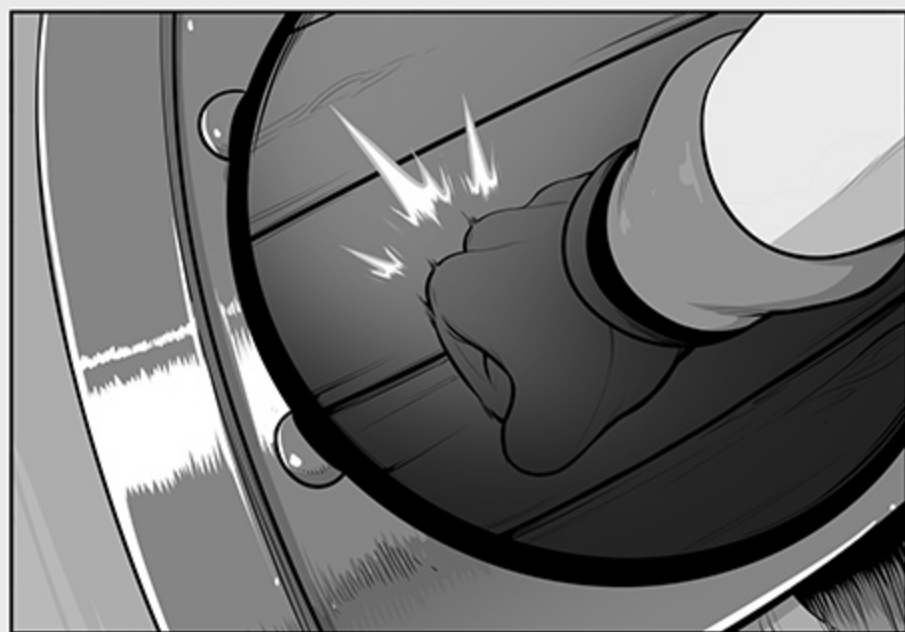
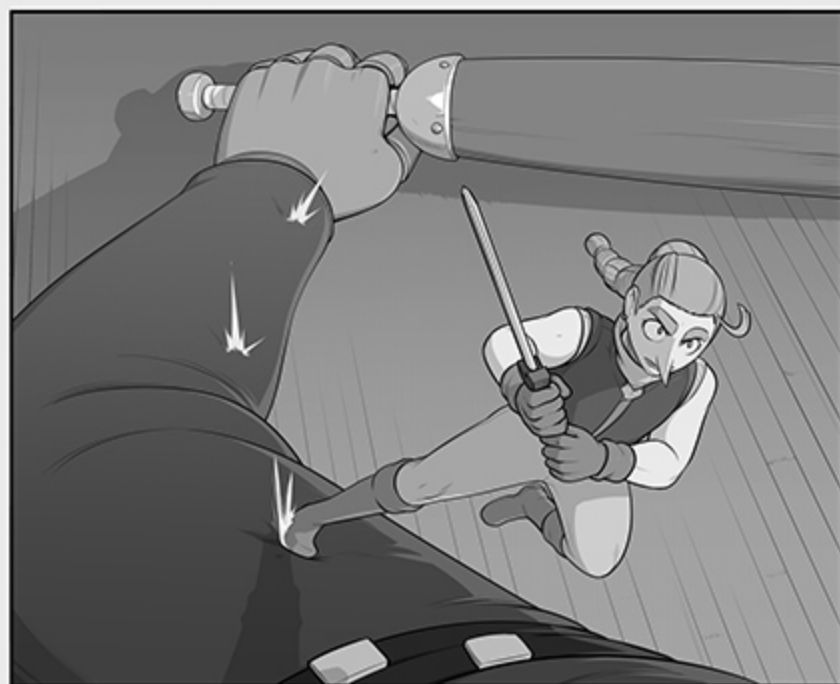
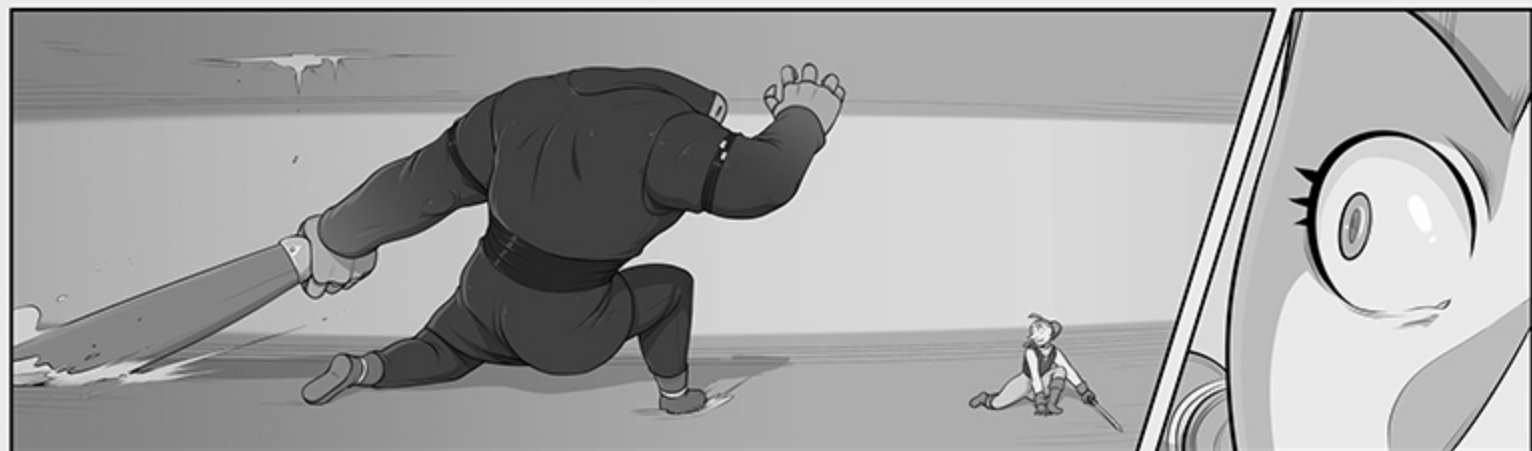


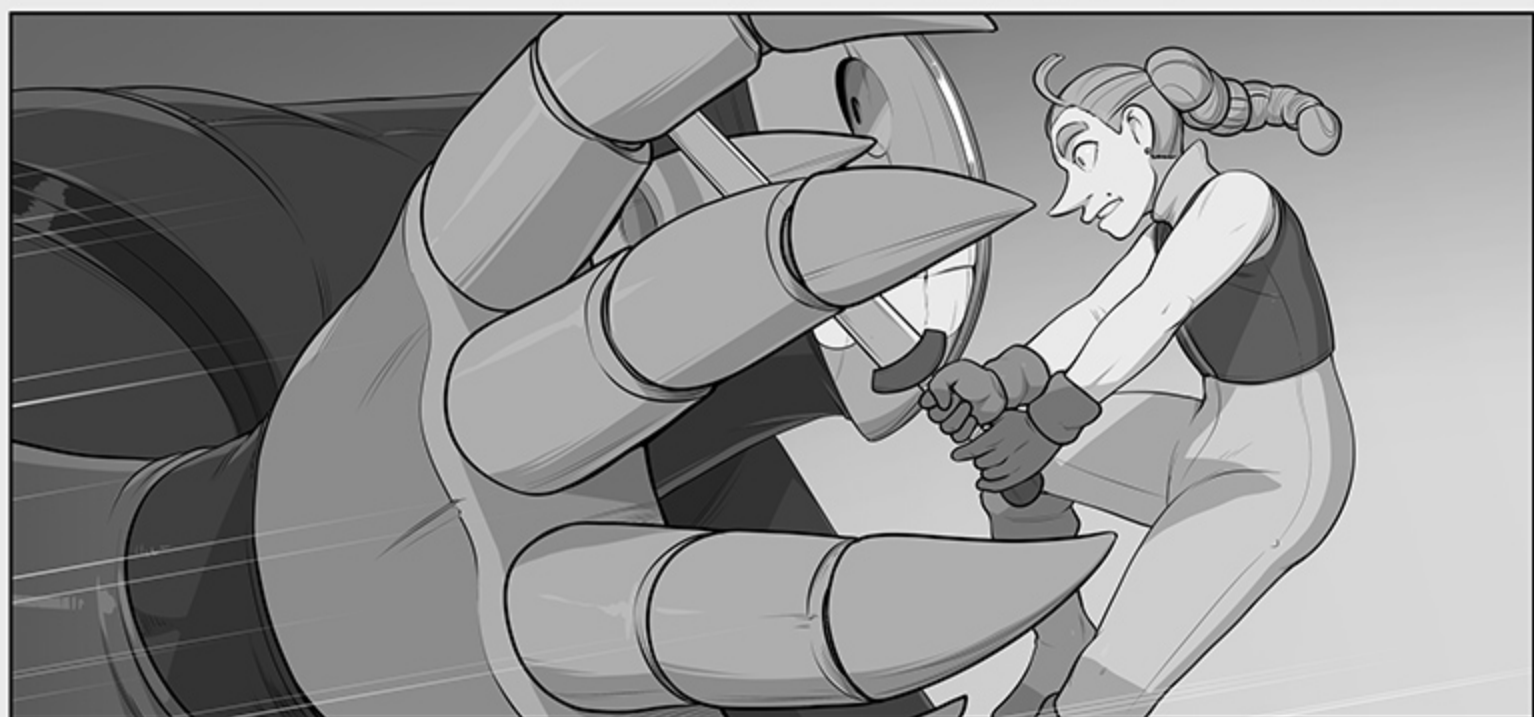
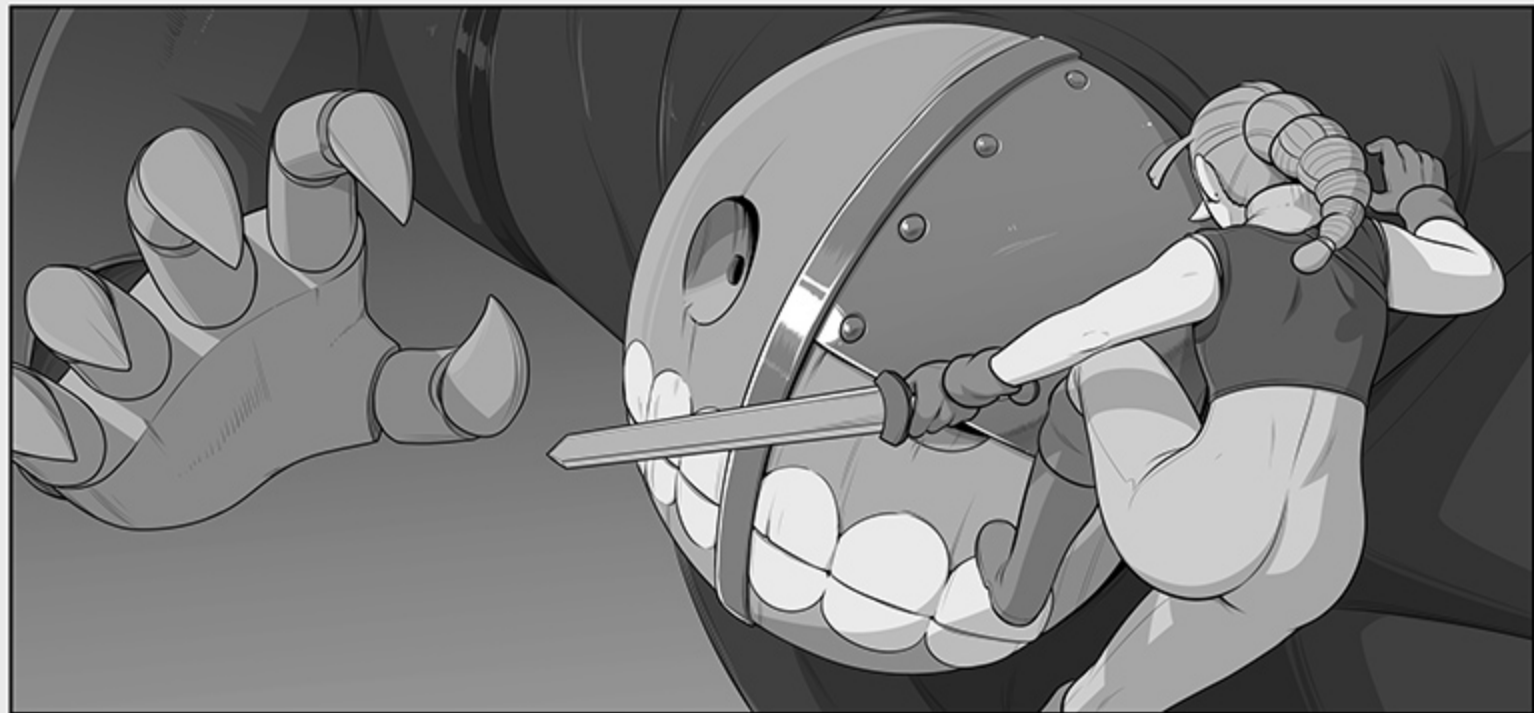


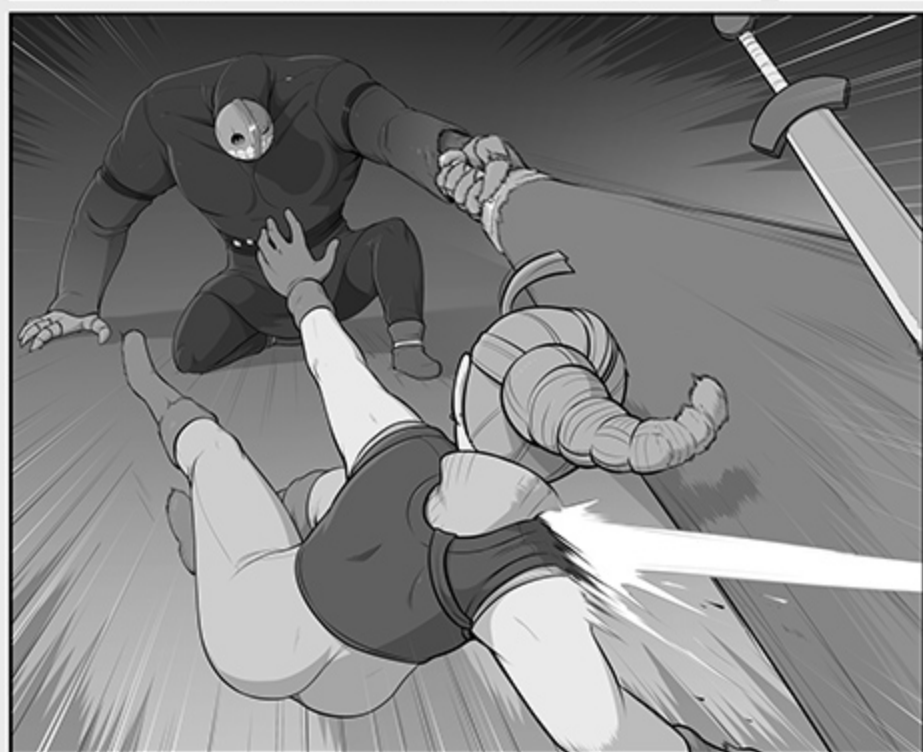


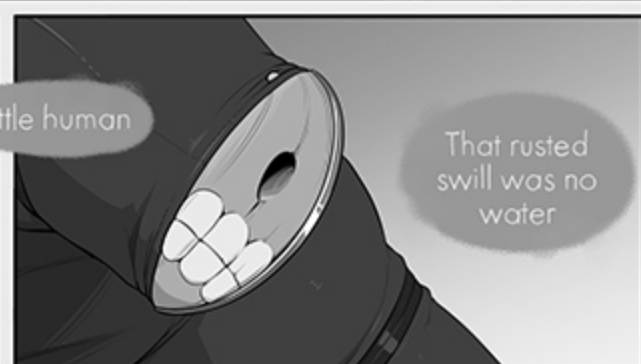
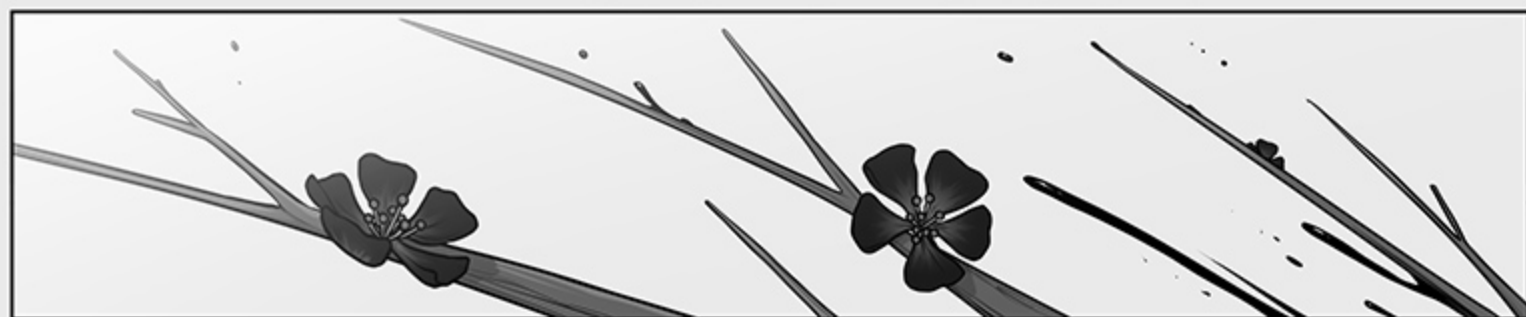


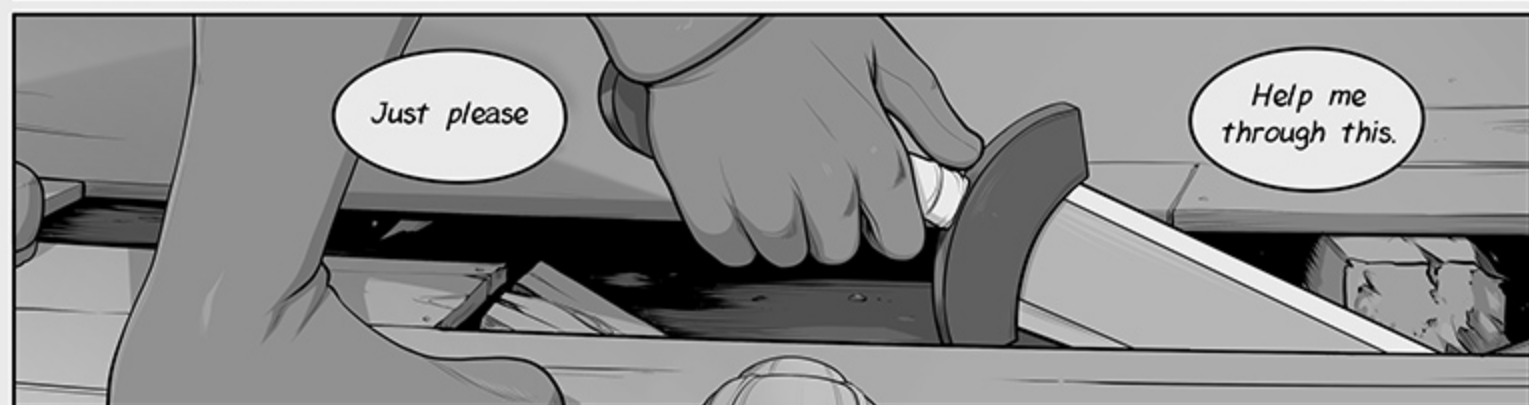






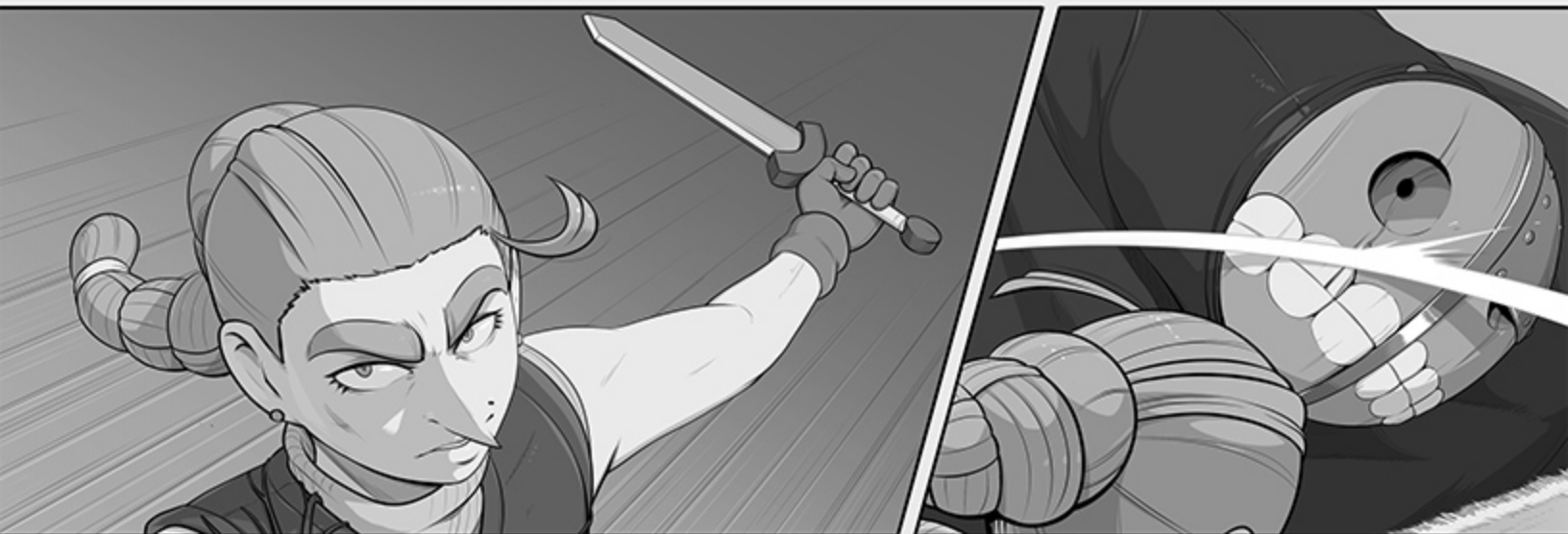




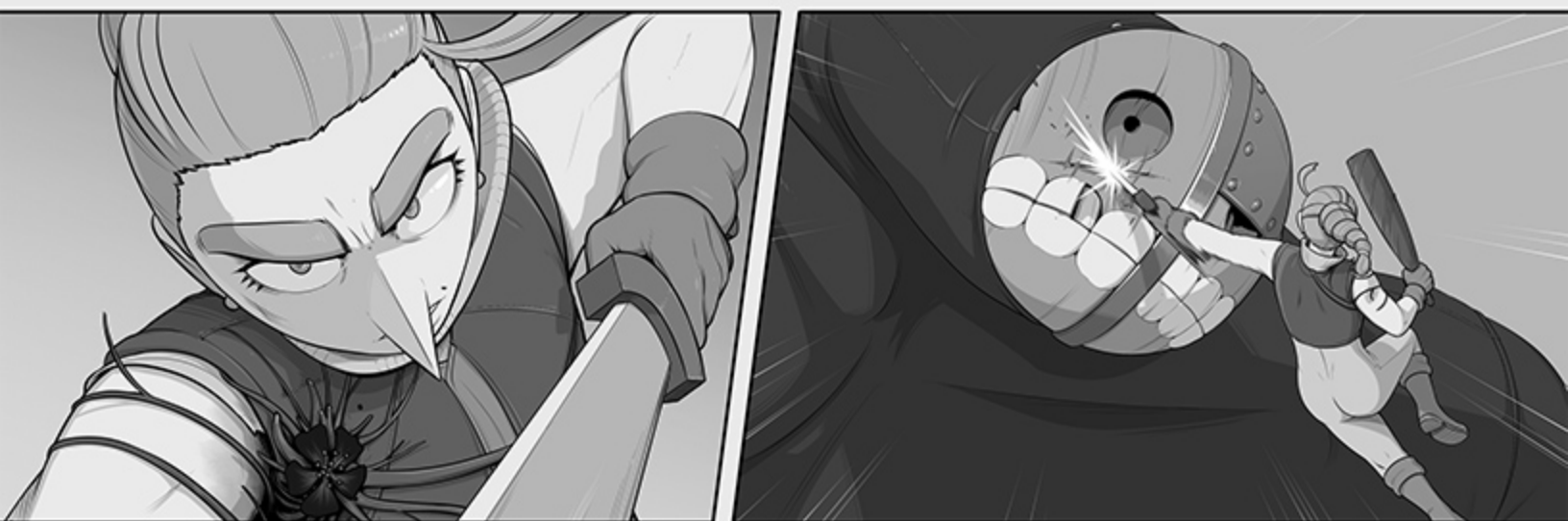
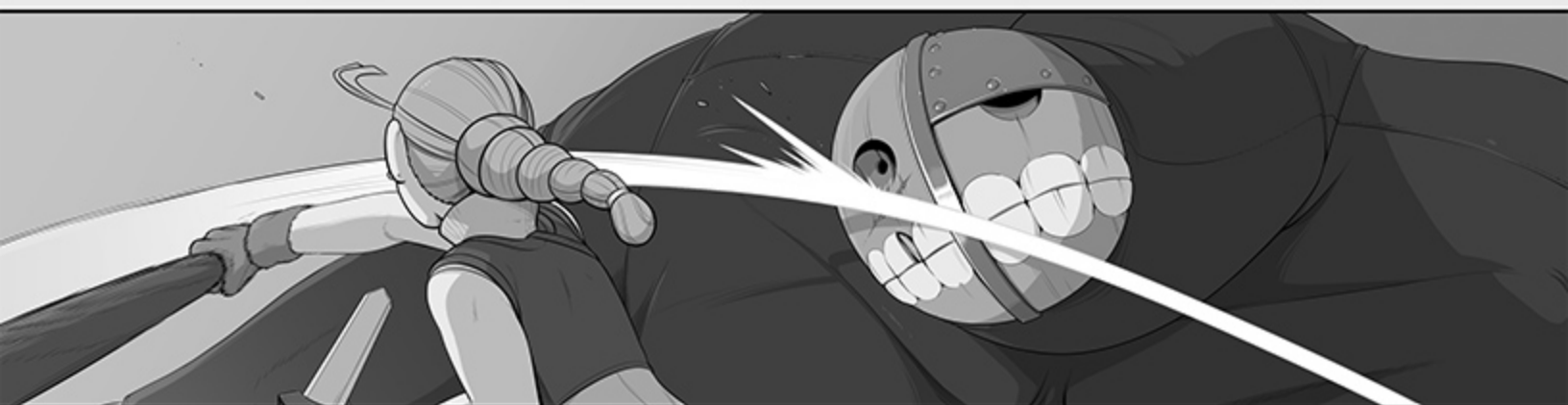




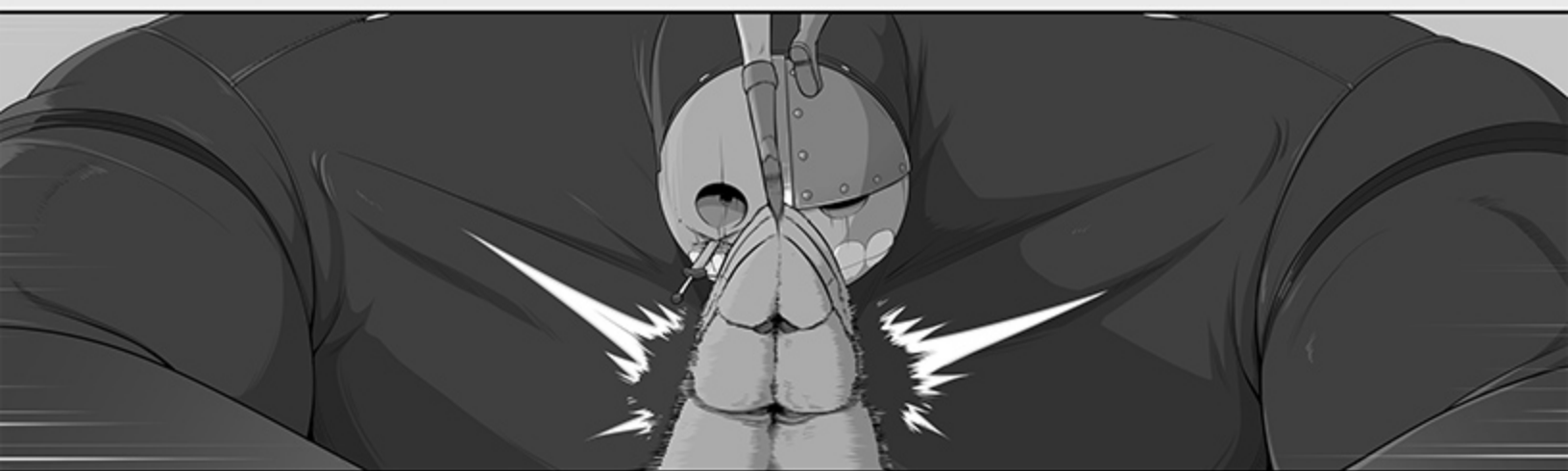
Well, well.



Just where did you find this strength?

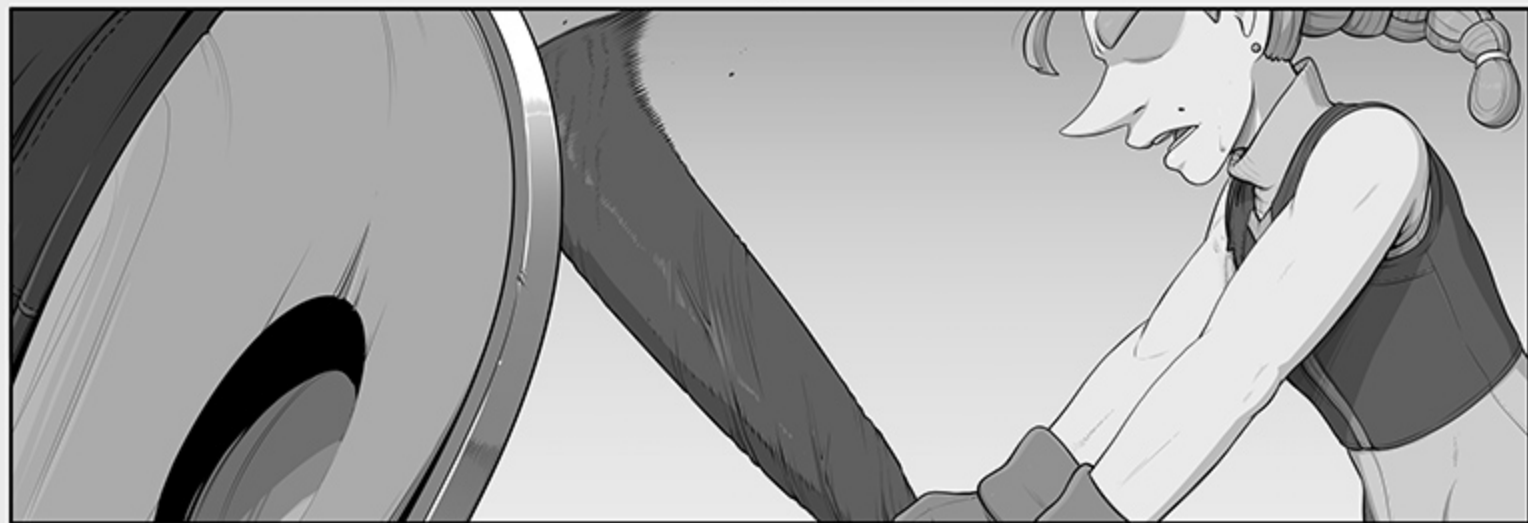
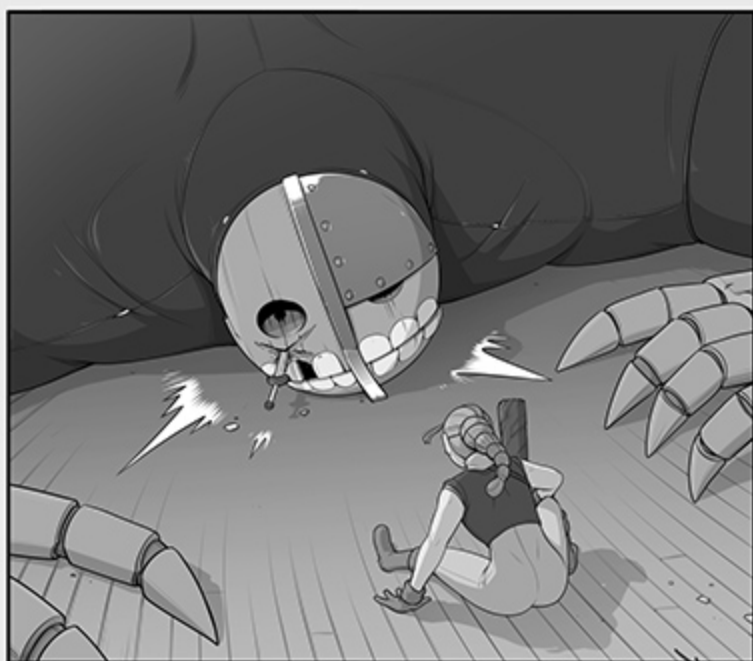


A knight, was it? Did it spring from that dream?

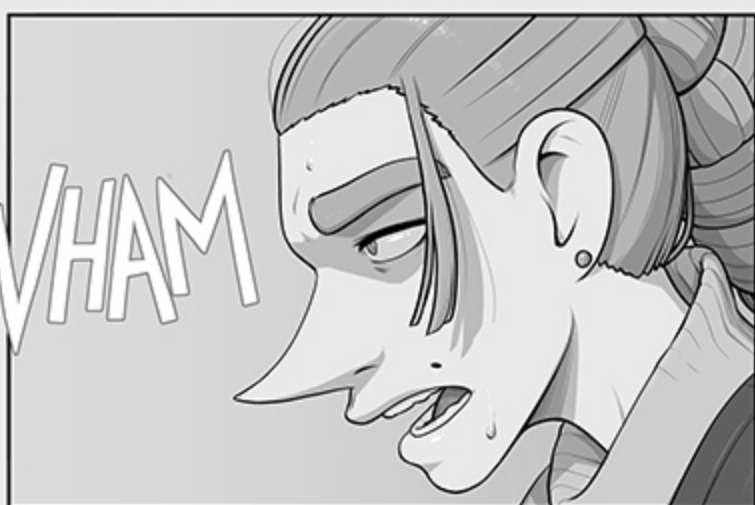
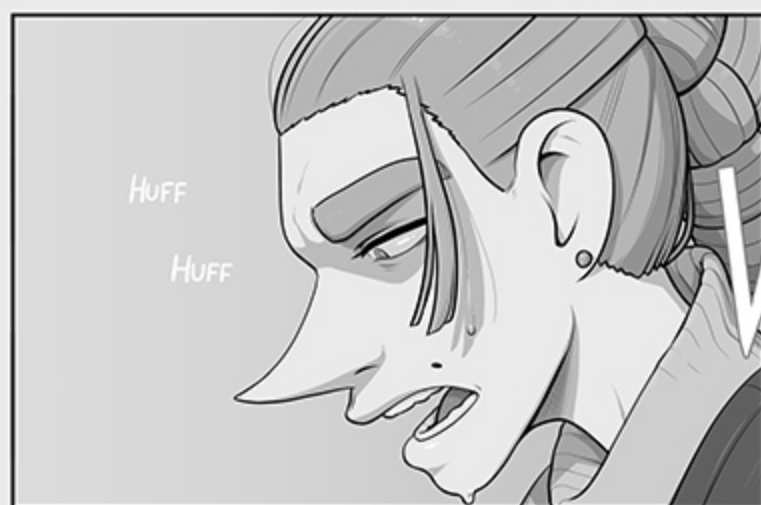
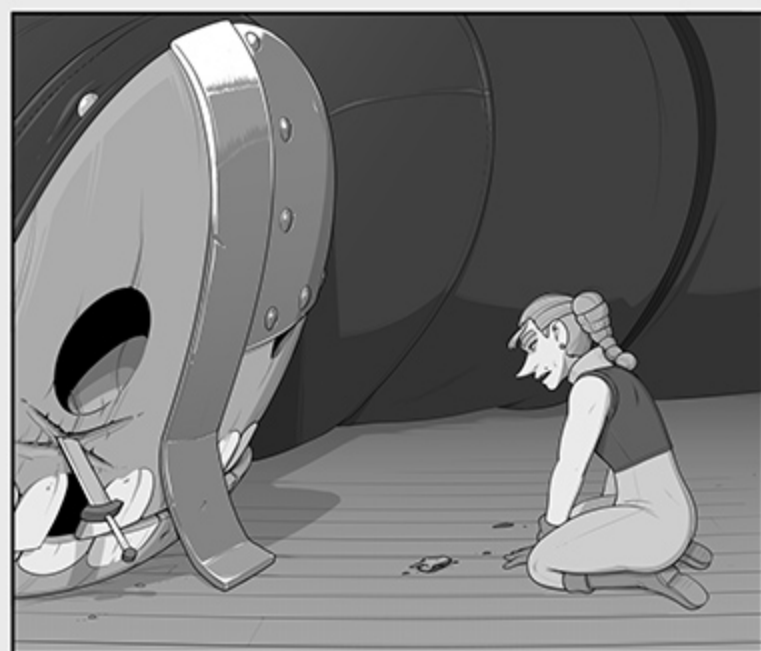
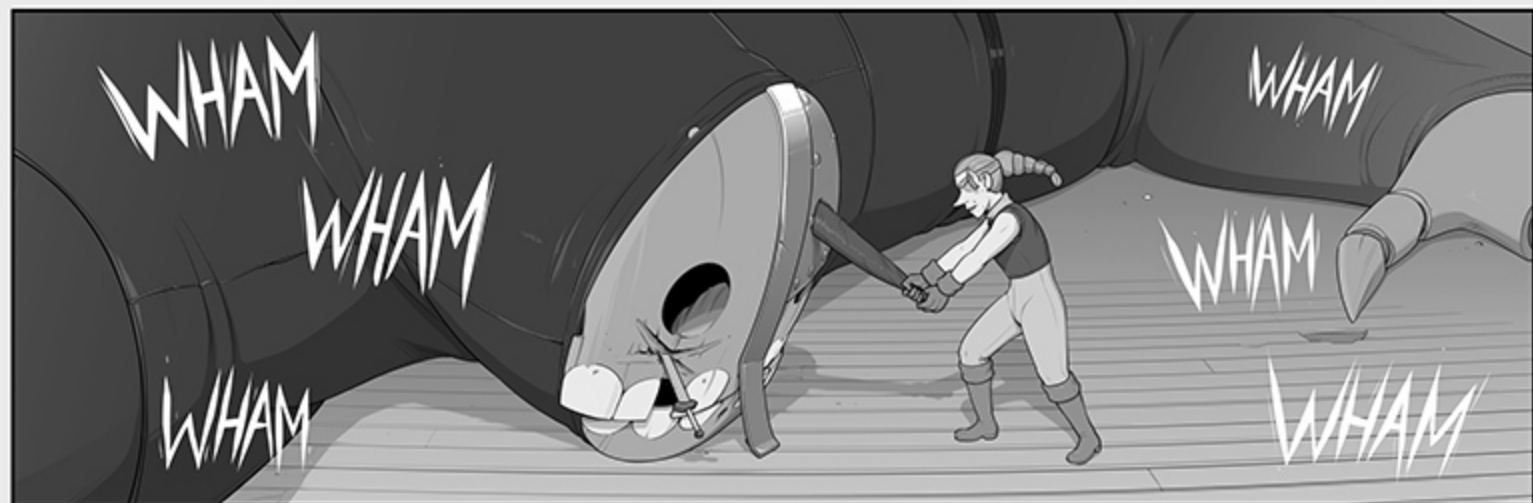




*Is that what forces you past your limits?
That lets you break whatever blocks that succulent ideal?*



I knew I picked well.





YOU KNOW WHO
I AM, KING ONIN?

WHO MYFATHER,
MYGRANDFATHER
WERE?



*You people just build,
and build, like a scab
overnature.*

*And when the wise Gremlins
try to WIPE AWAY
THE UNUSED,*



TO CLEANUP YOUR
WASTEFULRUINS, YOU
SCORN US?

PUNISH MY
ANCESTORS?!



THROW THEM IN
YOUR WRETCHED
PRISONS?!



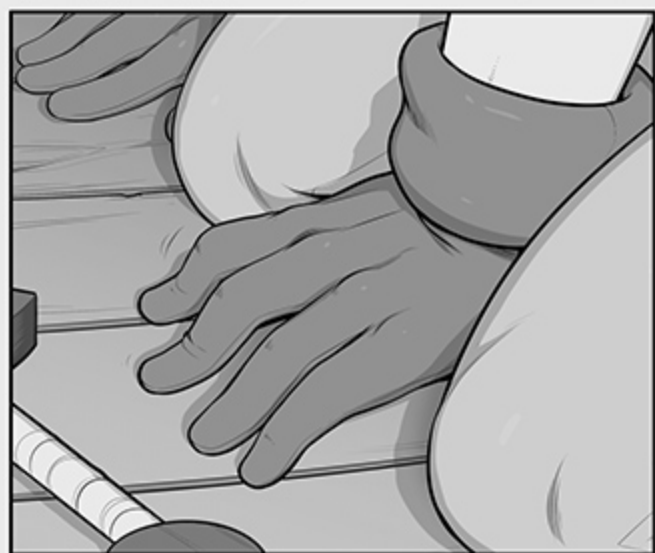
I haven't
memorized everyone
who might declare
me their enemy.



Your actions have
endangered the lives
of Centralians.

Stand down.

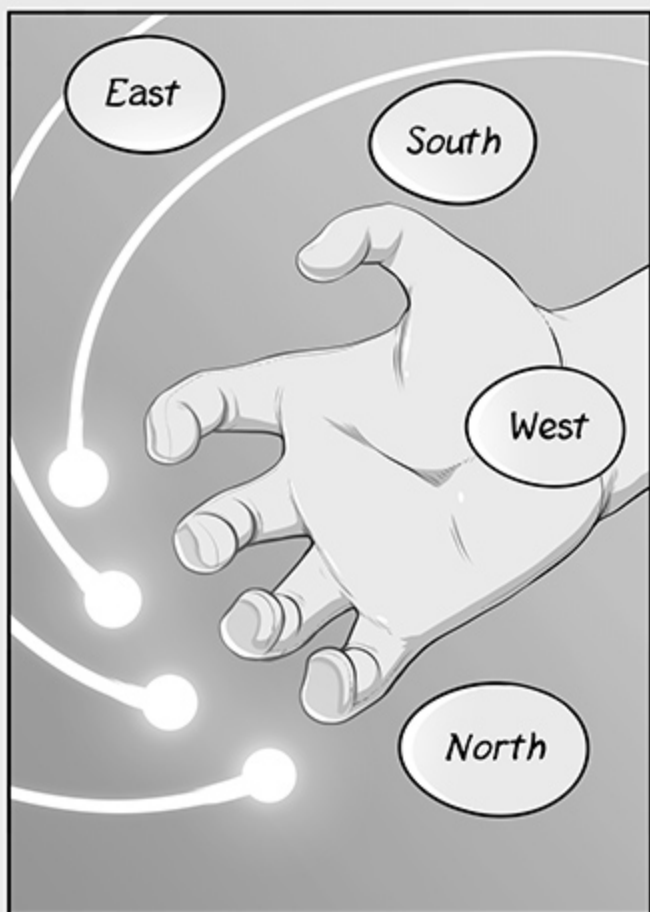
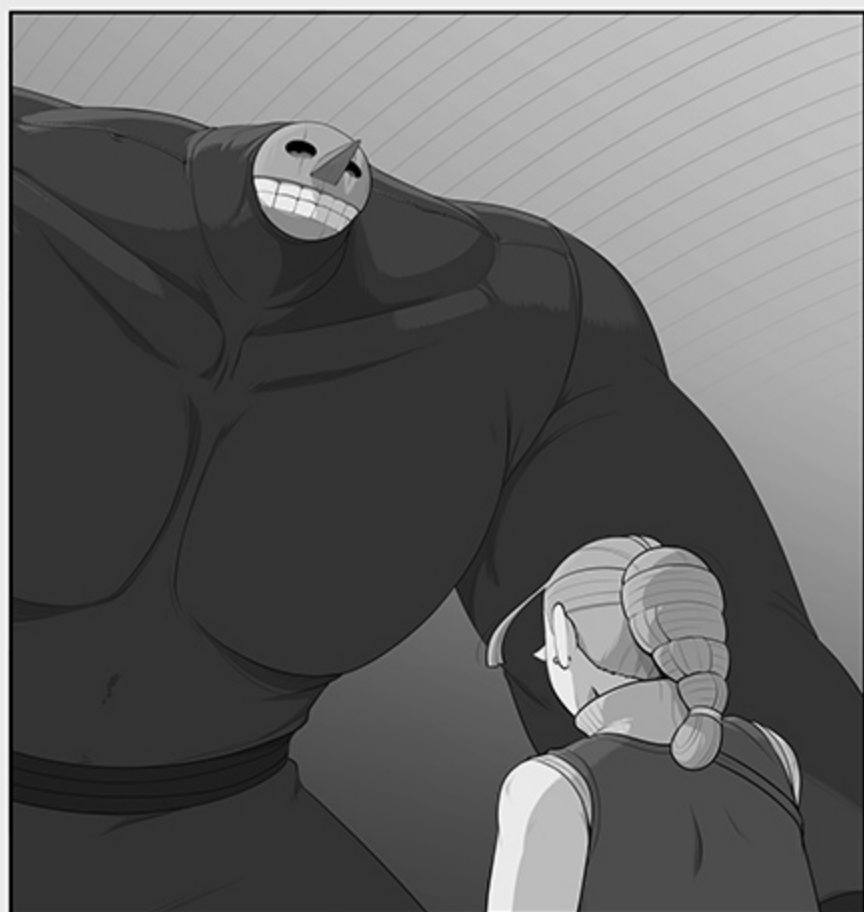


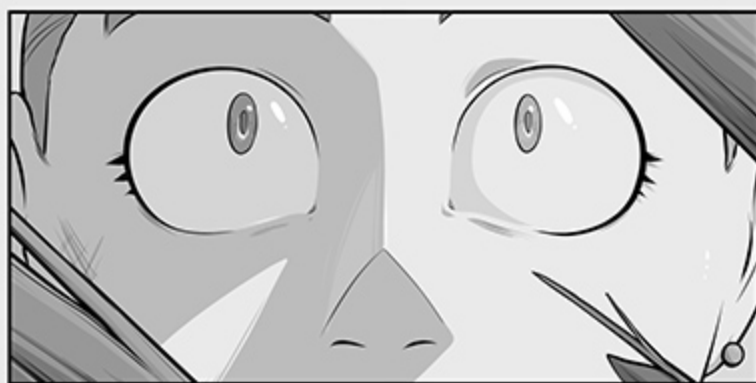
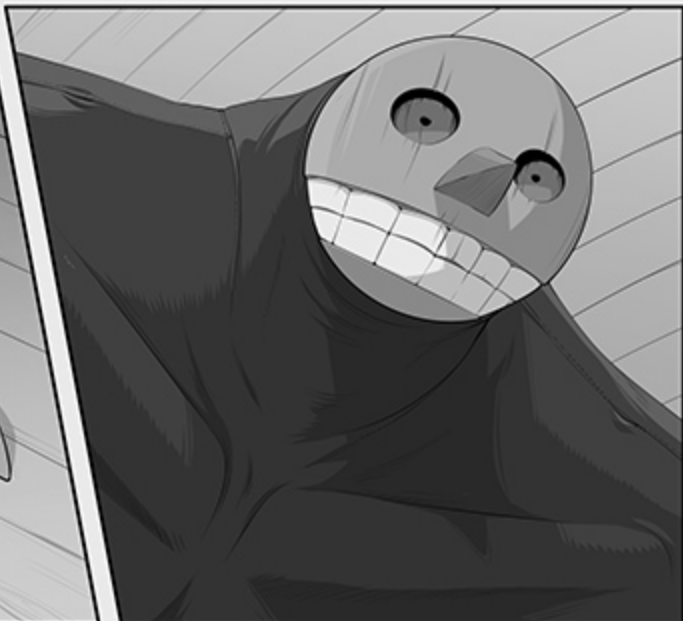
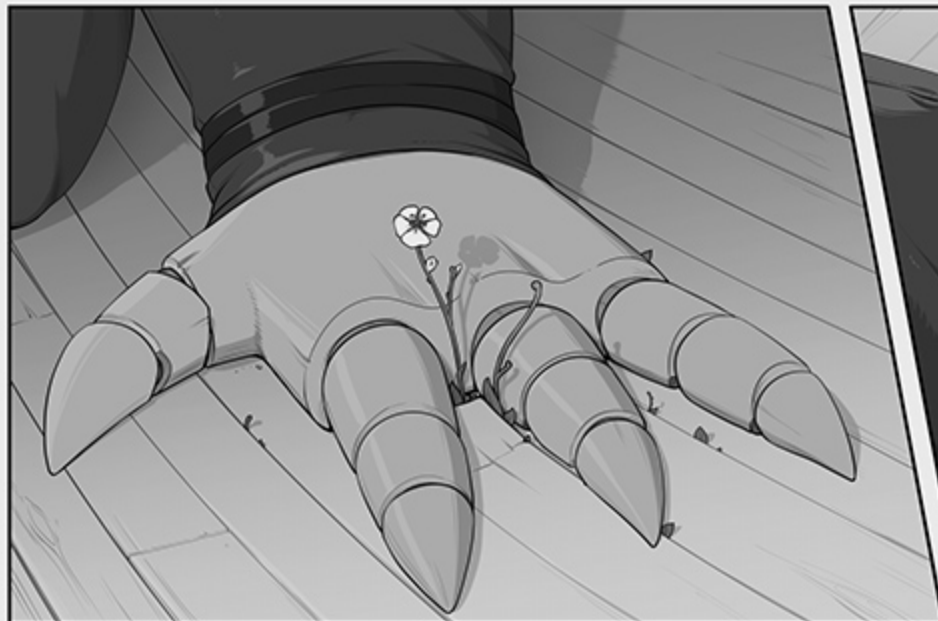




Immutable laws of firmament

Binds that lock stars upon their course

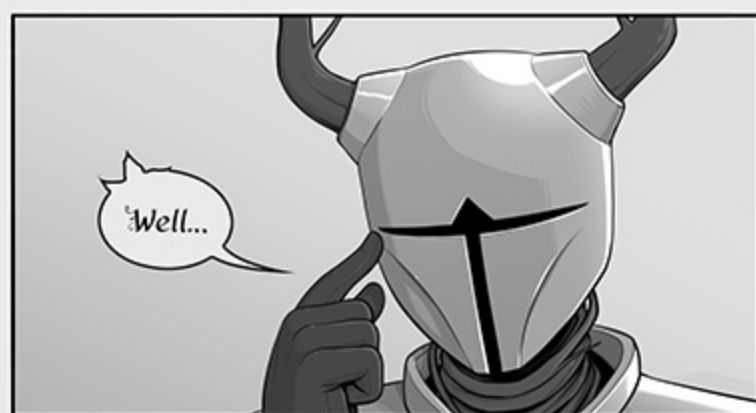
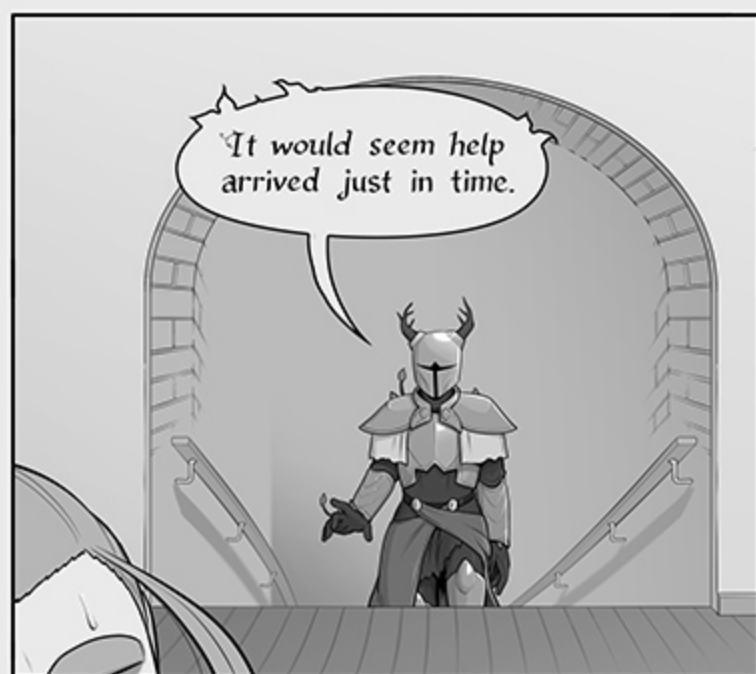
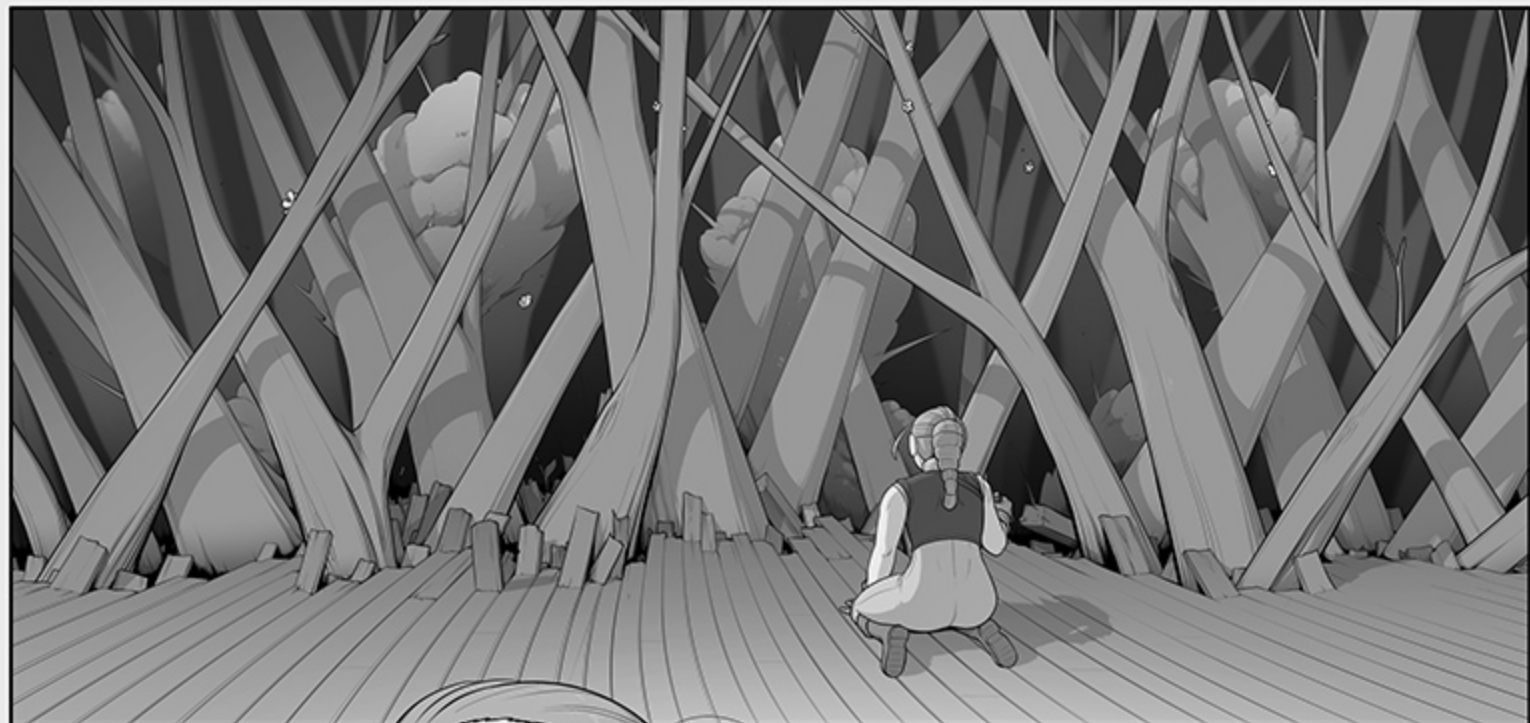


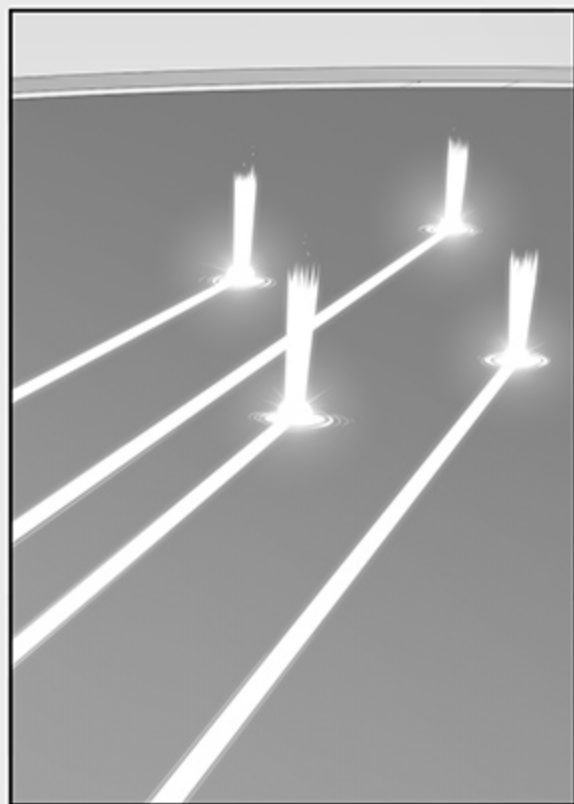
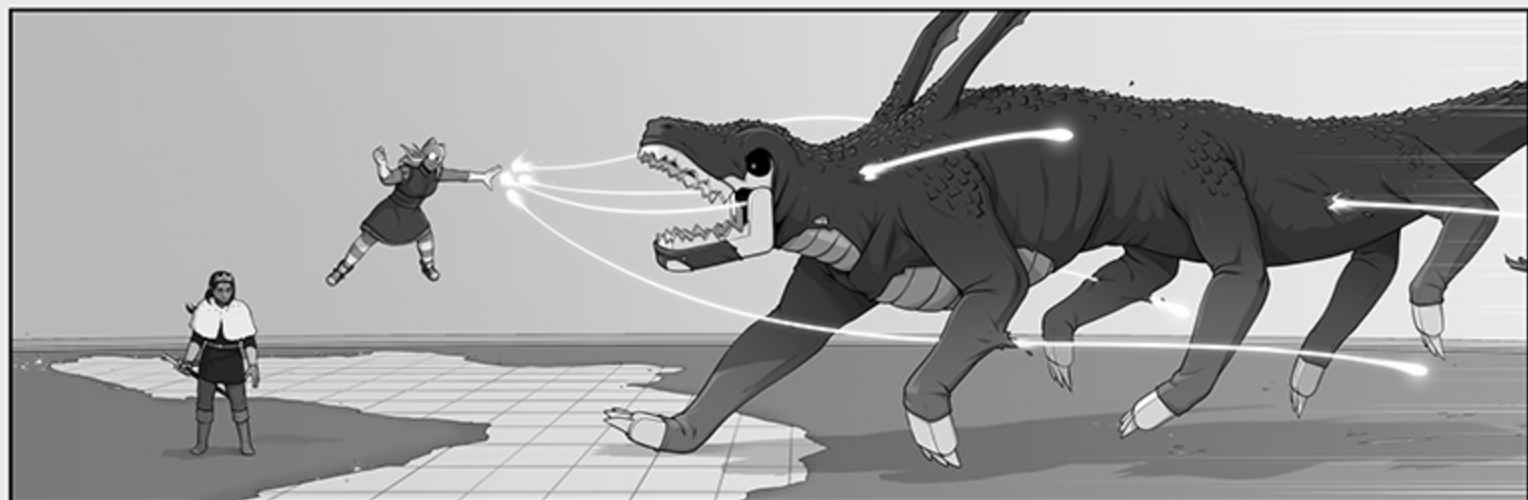
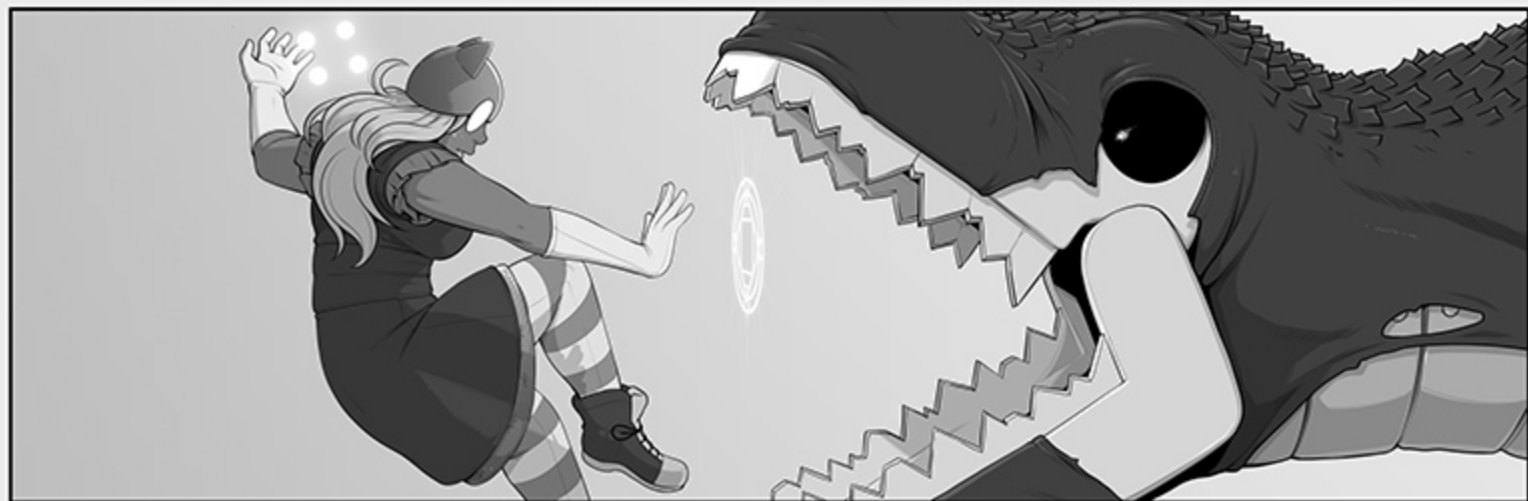


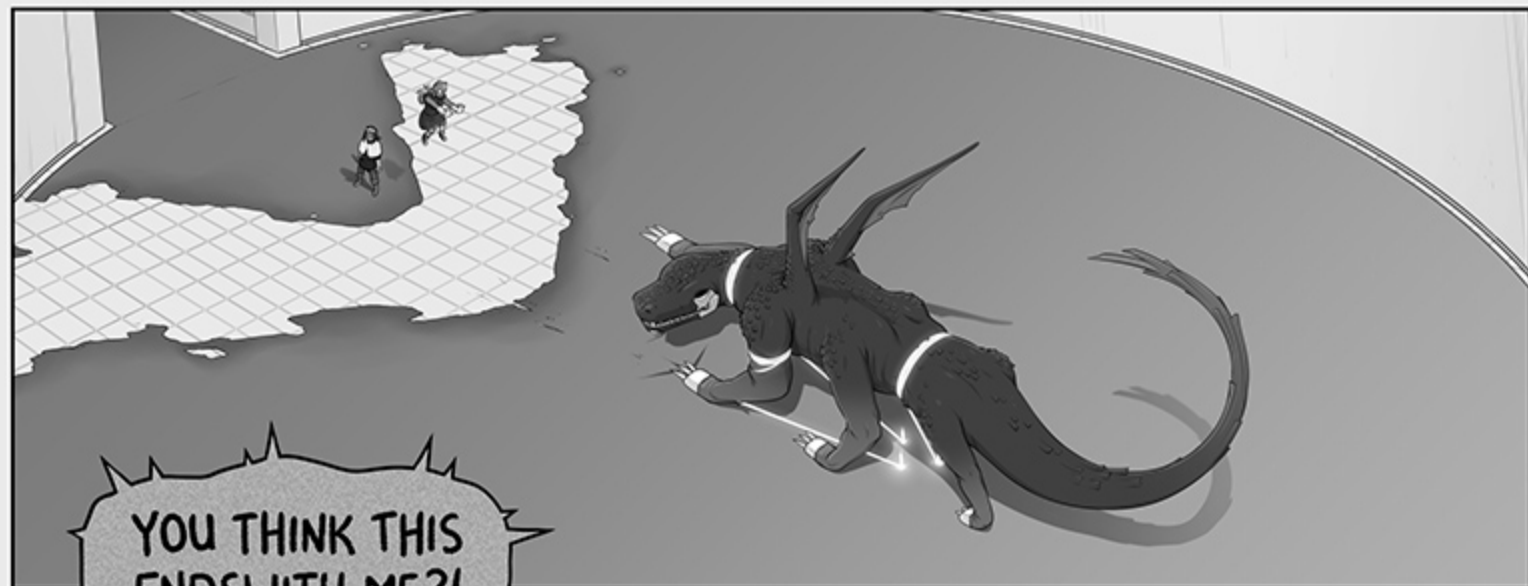


REINFORCEMENTS HAVE ARRIVED









YOU THINK THIS
ENDSWITH ME?!



YOU THINK YOUR
EMPIRE CAN FIGHT
DECAYITSELF?!



Likely not.

I literally
never said anything
like that.



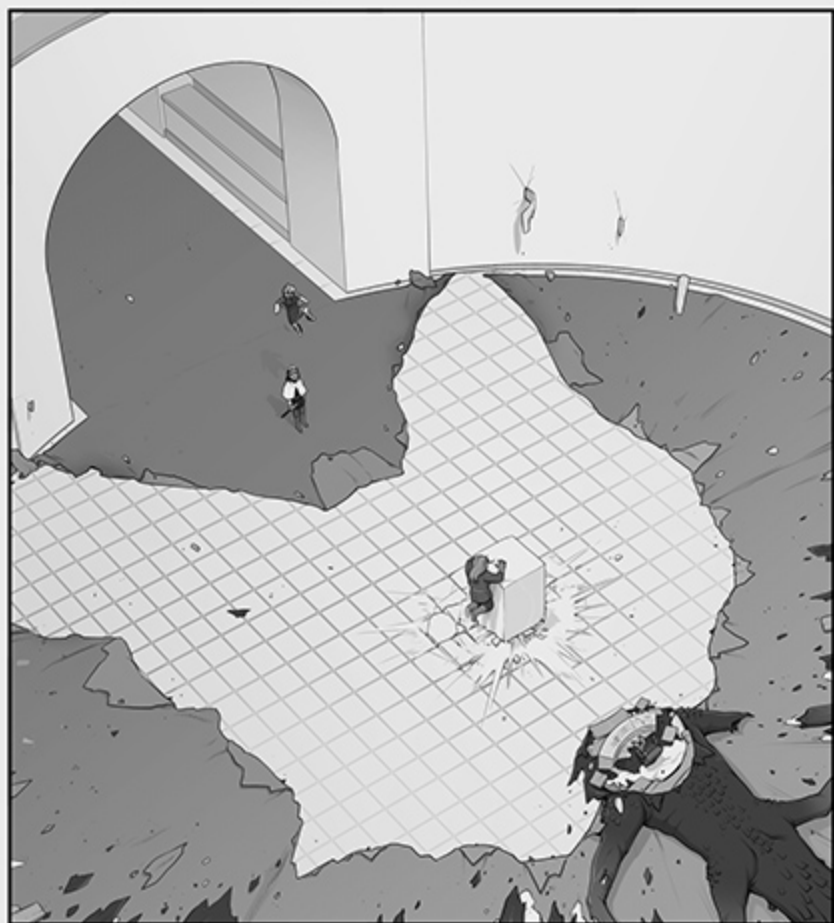
But I will not
allow some foolish
vendetta to-

DRAGON-SMASHING

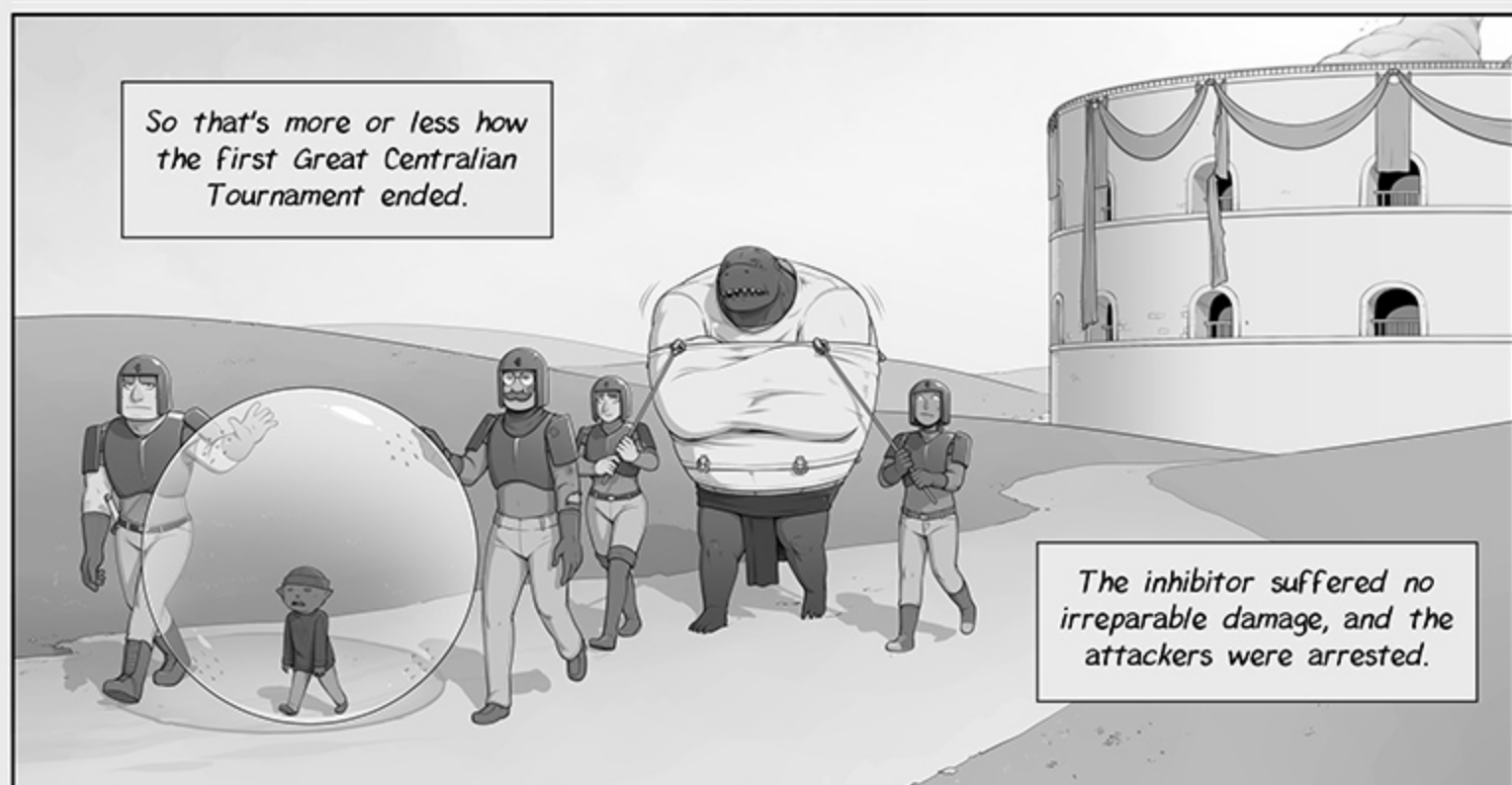


There will always
be those wh-

DAUGHTER-SAVING







As for the tournament winners, participants recieved a cash reward based on their progress before the turmoil.



Sadly, no one got that ultra-rare card.

W-what?

But... I did find some notoriety in a way I never expected.

I said

I've a job I'd like your help with.

Well don't rush, think on it.

wheeze

wheeze

TRYETH HARD AND BE KIND,
AND PEOPLE SHALL NOTICE.
THAT'S ALMOST AS GOOD AS
BEING A WINNER, I SUPPOSETH

Chapter 17 End

Thanks for reading!

Ironheart-Rune by Will Muzzi

*ironheart-rune.com
itch.io/ironheart-rune*

